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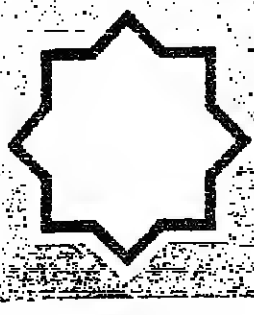
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# The Star



Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly



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AMMAN, 16 — 22 MAY, 1996, VOLUME 7, NUMBER 1, 350 fils

اسبوعية سياسية مستقلة

## Experts unimpressed with Kabariti's first 100 days of rule

By Raed Al Abed  
Star Staff Writer

HUNDRED DAYS is a short period of time to judge the government of Prime Minister Abdel Karim Kabariti. This is a view agreed upon by political observers. But the performance of the government needs to be more dynamic internally, and more balanced externally.

Mr. Kabariti was given the green light by His Majesty King Hussein, who insisted that dramatic changes take place in the most sensitive areas of government. Kabariti's cabinet is strongly tied to the Palace, Parliament and the security services—a source of envy from previous premiers. It is important to mention the strong backing Kabariti's government received from the press. These made the mission of Mr. Kabariti even more challenging.

In relation to the democratic process, "The government had introduced positive aspects," said Ibrahim Izziden, a former deputy prime minister who is considered a liberal. For him, a recent arrests were not helpful to the government's assumed role.

"The government should pay attention to these arrests because its record has been positive towards democracy," he added.

The arrests, especially among Islamists, ended the honeymoon between the government and the opposition, particularly the Islamic Action Front (IAF).

"The government must put an end to the arrests. Unfortunately, the campaign is much like of those in the past," said Lower House deputy Hamza Mansour, and IAF spokesman. "These arrests are embarrassing. We feel they happened because of external pressures."

One of the first actions of the government has been to embark on a program to lessen its role in the media. But the government is accused by some of meddling in the internal affairs of the press and it is not yet clear how far it will go in that direction.

The restructuring of the security services to make them more accountable is another point in the government's favor. This week, the government adopted a draft law for the Institute of Freedom, Democracy and Human Rights Studies—which has been



Kabariti

side-stepped by previous administrations.

Observers believe that the cabinet has been too optimistic about its confrontation of the nagging issues of poverty and unemployment. But to date, the government has failed to unveil its own program to combat these problems. On the contrary, prices have continued to rise and the government has recently approved price hikes for water and electricity. In addition, it

became the first government to announce openly its willingness to increase the price of bread.

"Despite the fact that job opportunities are improving, prices hikes, specially of imported materials continue," said Senator Dr. Jawad Anani. "The government ambitions are varied and this is why we can't judge it at the moment. I expect things will be better at the end of this year."

Referring to social issues, experts believe that studies were carried out and mechanisms created, but the implementation remains weak. "Many plans have been tried in Jordan, but this government has not developed a clear agenda to affect social change," Izziden explained.

Dr. Anani, a former minister and an economic expert, was more forthcoming in his assessment. "By the middle of the next year, there will be more investments, however wages will seriously decrease as a result of the gradual increase in prices."

But price increases will create more tension to the already worsening economic situation. Experts agree that the govern-

ment should work at all levels to avoid more increases in the price of basic commodities.

The economic policy of the government, which is a continuation of previous governments, is based on the Economic Restructuring Program (ERP) agreed upon with the IMF. "In other words the infrastructure is there and the political will for reform is there," said Izziden.

"But this government, like the previous ones, is not taking bold decisions in the administrative reforms. It should be more aggressive," he added.

"In the short run the government's effort aims to strengthen the foreign reserve, to maintain the level of the interest rate and activate the Amman Financial Market," Anani said.

Experts doubt the government has the will to uproot corruption. Even the Law of Illicit Gain is still marching back and forth between the Lower and Upper Houses.

"Up till now I do not feel that the government has shown a political will to introduce new and meaningful legislations to

Continued on page 2

## La difficile survie du peuple irakien

A LIRE p. 12 dans LE JOURNAL

## First Ladies call for commitment to development

By Star Staff Writer

AMMAN—The second meeting of the International Steering Committee on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women (ISC), which was opened by Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor on Tuesday, concluded its meetings Wednesday with a call to address the problems and issues of rural women. The First Ladies of 15 countries attending the two-day meeting.

Her Majesty Queen Noor in her concluding remarks said participants had concluded that rural women were creditworthy and called for a review of policies affecting land ownership, inheritance and credit rules.

In his opening address King Hussein pointed to alarming figures about the state of rural women in the world today and described them as a challenge facing the ISC



and United Nations agencies and bodies concerned with development and human rights. The King said the challenge is in establishing them as a challenge facing the ISC

Continued on page 3

## Cairo meeting stresses openness between Jordan, Egypt, PNA

By Ahmad Shaker  
Special to The Star

WITH THE participation of His Majesty King Hussein, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, and Palestinian Chairman Yasser Arafat, Amman is expected to host the second tripartite summit of the Peace Camp on 5 June. The meeting will come three weeks after a similar one that took place in the Egyptian capital last week.

The Amman summit is significant because it would be convened soon after the end of the Israeli elections, the fourth peace partner, which may put the peace train at a crossroad.

Well-informed sources describe the May summit in Cairo as an interest-oriented and a frank meeting. Indicative of this, the visits which preceded that summit, including the King's last meeting with President Mubarak on his way home from Europe.

"The Cairo summit removed the suspicion that at times hung over certain issues that were put on the agenda between the three leaders during their Cairo meet. King Hussein's statements were crystal clear. Jordan's support for the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) and the PNA's support for Jordan was unequivocal."

Moreover, an agreement was reached between Jordan and the PNA on the following issues:

■ In the presence of President Mubarak, King Hussein stated clearly to chairman Arafat that Jordan has no intention whatsoever of becoming an alternative to the Palestinian National Authority, and that it neither believes in nor recognizes any other Palestinian leadership. King Hussein added that Jordan has no aim or interest other than supporting the Palestinian people and their legitimate leadership to realize their national rights and establish an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. The King said Jordan will never compete with Palestinians during the final status negotiations with Israel. King Hussein said that in no time and by no means will Jordan come to an agreement with Hamas, neither will the latter carry out any activities in the Kingdom.

■ Jordan will support the Palestinians in their final status negotiations. A special office will be established in Jordan comprising experts to offer consultation and provide Omani, British and Jordanian documents on the issues of borders, Jerusalem and the refugees question.



■ King Hussein clearly said that Jordan has no aspirations over Jerusalem and that Jordan's call for the return of the city and its shrines to the Palestinians is sincere. Jordan's role in assuming guardianship of the holy places proceeds from, and as long as they are under Israeli rule.

The old city of Jerusalem, which includes the shrines, has nothing to do with the discussions on the question of sovereignty, as the holy places are not subject to political sovereignty, but only to that of God's. Jerusalem is the symbol and title of peace, the King

stated. Jordan will do its best to preserve Jerusalem and the holy shrines therein until the Palestinians regain their rights there.

■ The three parties have a mutual interest in drawing the red lines to define their interrelations, especially at this stage.

■ Jordan competes with nobody for a pivotal role in the region, and fully supports Egypt. Any setback on the final status negotiations between Palestinians and Israelis will have negative repercussions on the peace process in Jordan and Egypt. Therefore, coordination

Continued on page 2

## Iraqi hospitals suffer from lack of drugs, disrepair

By Oronb Al Abed  
Special to The Star

BAGHDAD—In a six-patient room in Ibn Al Beladi Hospital in Saddam City, the morning round for the doctors, with only one specialist in epidemiology, continues daily. Patients, lying on unheated beds, suffer while waiting for God's mercy to relieve their pain.

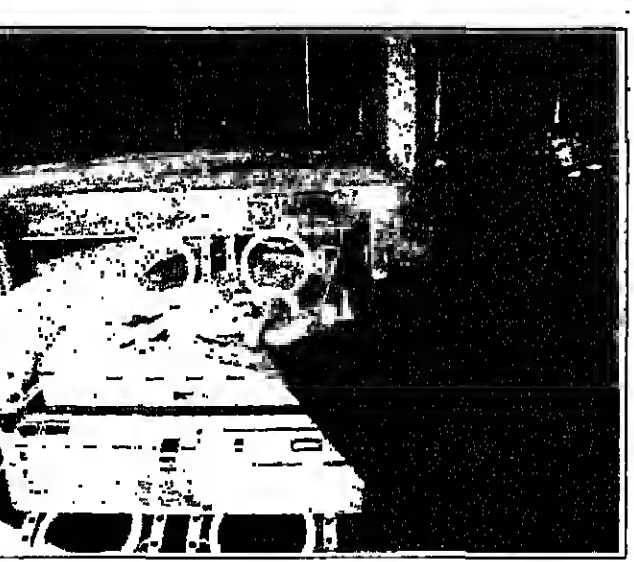
With UN sanctions imposed on Iraq since 1990 the state of Iraqi hospitals has deteriorated to dire levels. In the summer, with the temperatures soaring, windows are left open. Outside, the smell of rotting garbage seeps in.

Flies hover over helpless patients. They are everywhere: on walls, food and on babies' milk.

With no sterilization available, the hospital is rife with cockroaches running on floors and walls. For the 36-room floor in this hospital, only one toilet is available. There used to be many toilets, but because pipes are in short supply, the toilets had to be knocked down and made part of the rooms, explained Dr. Alhan Al Rashid.

Patients enter hospitals to become well again. But not in Iraq. Lack of drugs, worn out equipment, flies, cockroaches and the general atmosphere is making patients even more sick.

Patients with leukemia, thalassemia and hemophilia can't be treated because of the lack of medicines and working equipment, explained Dr. Mubashir Maki Mahmoud, general director of Al Mansour Teaching



Hospital in Baghdad.

Patients can't count on local pharmaceutical production, which meets only 25 percent of the local market needs because factories are unable to import chemical agents needed for manufacturing. "The shortage of Vancristy [chemotherapy] is causing a major problem in the treatment of patients with leukemia," Dr. Mahmoud added.

Under the Iraqi-Jordanian protocol of 1995, Jordanian pharmaceuticals valued at \$33 million annually entered Iraq. In addition, drugs valued at \$27 million came from NGO's worldwide.

"Unfortunately most of these drugs were not vital and most were already expired," pointed out the Minister of Health Medhat Mubarak sarcastically.

The shortage does not only affect drugs, but medical equipment and, more importantly, spareparts, which are prohibited from entering the country under the UN sanctions.

"We are working hard to develop expertise, new inventions, and things which we have left a long time ago! We are reviving old methods," the minister said.

In hospitals, for instance, there is no paper to write on. So they adopted a new system of writing on the back of old files. Hospital labs have almost stopped functioning since the Gulf War because of the disruption of electricity. Fluorescent electrical current and voltage instability had damaged

Continued on page 2

## London to spruce up the Thames

By Fred Barbash  
LA Times-Washington Post News Service

LONDON—Pity the Thames. The millennium cometh, and with it, a notion that the river is somehow not good enough for the occasion.

Among the solutions: creating a Ferris wheel along its banks that would rise as high as the Washington Monument, encasing some of the buildings on its shores in a "crystal palace" of glass, "linking and weaving" it together into a new "blue highway" by the use of high-tech boats. Last year, the government released a Thames Strategy, devised by consultants, with the notion of planning the river into submission.

Pray for the Thames. And consider whether it really needs much help celebrating history.

The Thames, whose name was recorded as far back as Julius Caesar, is 213 miles long. It twists and turns through Greater London for roughly 30 miles from Hampton Court in the west to Greenwich in the east. At one end, at Hampton Court Palace, the King James version of the Bible was born. At the

other, Greenwich, the clock of the Western world was set.

Between the two points, William the Conqueror started building the Tower of London 78 years after the last millennium celebration. It still stands. Not far away, Shakespeare staged his plays. A stone's throw from there, the Mayflower departed. And nearby, on the south bank, is the site of a famous old mental hospital, St. Mary of Bethlehem, better known to the world as "Bedlam."

Among those who have lived or worked on its banks: Geoffrey Chaucer, Henry VIII, Elizabeth I, Sir Thomas More, Charles Dickens, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Dante Gabriel Rossetti, George Eliot, Joseph Conrad, Thomas Carlyle,

Oscar Wilde, Virginia Woolf, Ben Jonson, James Abbott McNeill Whistler, William Butler Yeats, Charles de Gaulle and Mick Jagger, to name a few.

The complaint is that the river is hard to use and is thus underused. Like the rest of London, things just happened, and parts are a bit shabby. Some confess the real problem is that it is not the Seine, not very romantic. A quick, unscientific survey of a few knowledgeable Londoners failed to turn up a single popular song about the Thames, save "London Bridge Is Falling Down."

Its banks are not terribly accessible: Tidal rhythms cause the water to rise and fall 22 feet in a single day. Great ugly walls protect the banks when the water is high. When the water level is low, on the other hand, it is a river of mud flats. Except up river, where it's bucolic, it's not for

loungers.

In fact, the Thames is neither romantic, nor blue, nor, anymore, a highway. It's a clutter. Britain had an empire and a traditional shipping trade, which required great wharves and warehouses. The empire went away and container vessels replaced the old ships, but the old wharves and warehouses remained. Some became apartment complexes, but then the recession came along and many of the apartments were left empty. They are just now filling up.

But while the river may be underutilized, as the Thames Strategy report said last year, the clutter is not. The Battersea Power Station, stunning in its dark silhouette, was the setting for the recent movie "Richard III."

On weekends, a construction site immediately to its west becomes a bazaar of the nation's junk. The crane on the

site is a gathering place for bungee jumpers, who, for a fee, get hoisted high above the river and then dropped.

In nearby Battersea Park, you never know what you will find. One week it was a convention of vintage motorcycles—complete with vintage bikers—sponsored by Harley-Davidson.

Even the mud flats can be fun. If you are adventurous, like Stephanie Tickner, who guides tours along the riverbanks for London Walks, you can go scrounging in the muck for artifacts. "I've got a lovely old collection of clay pipes from the 1600s," she said. "If you were to dredge the going back 3,000 years."

The South Bank arts complex—diagonally across and slightly down river from the Palace of Westminster—is alive with activity day and night.

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# JORDAN

## WEEK

An unconventional report on Jordanian news and views edited by Marwan Al Asmar



His Majesty King Hussein has inspected the Azraq air force base on Saturday to mark the end of the joint US-Jordanian military maneuvers. The exercises, named operation Eager Tiger, involved 34 US fighters and squadrons of the Jordanian Air Force. Jordan hopes to absorb US-made fighters into its air force sometime next year. The US planes will now confine their mission to surveillance of a no-fly zone over southern Iraq.

About the maneuvers, King Hussein said he was pleased that Jordanian pilots were taking part. He said it was an opportunity to receive first-hand know-how about sophisticated technology. The King pointed out that the deployment of US warplanes in Jordan were not in any way directed against Iraq.

"The US is a friendly nation with which we conducted several military exercises in the past," he said. "This is one of the largest one about which the Americans themselves have expressed satisfaction," the King added.

Over 1,100 US service personnel are stationed in Al Azraq. For the US, the joint exercises were an opportunity to share professional knowledge, said the commander of the Airpower Expeditionary Force in Jordan, Gen. Bill Looney. He said US jets fly about 10 sorties per day over southern Iraq.

### Corruption: practice and reality

Corruption: practice and reality. Minister of Administrative Development Dr Kamal Nasser has rejected press reports that his ministry has drawn up a 'Corruption File'. The minister said he was very surprised by what



Nasser

was published in *Al Aswat* about the existence of a file with names, addresses and numbers. Minister of Information Dr Marwan Al Muasher denied the existence of such files. But the government keeps reminding us that it has a strategy to fight corruption. It would be appropriate and timely to tell us something about that strategy. But seriously, it has been reported by *Ad Dustour* that the government is working hard to fight corruption—a complicated problem that needs patience and stamina. But people are angry. An Islamic delegation

visited Prime Minister Abdel Karim Al Kabarti last week to urge for quick action. Mr Kabarti said the government is serious about combating corruption, but it is still in the process of gathering information. On another level, the Council of Students of Higher Education at the University of Jordan has sent a memorandum to the Prime Minister demanding that he looks into cases of financial misuse and administrative corruption in the university.

### A two-star 'fool'

The Ministry of Supply has agreed to up-market popular restaurants—the fool, humus, and falafel variety. Now there will be ordinary and extraordinary category restaurants. They all sell the same stuff, but ministry sources say the category A restaurants will provide better quality services. Would that mean better "fool" or better seating arrangements? We wonder. With fool, humus and falafel being the staple food of the majority of the underprivileged, we urge the government not to put its sticky fingers into this subject.

### Democracy on brakes

Democracy might be an illusive concept, an elastic notion that stretches or decreases depending on who is leading the government. To our dismay, democracy is on the retreat in 1996. Despite our belief of greater liberalization and transparency, a latest opinion poll by the Center of Strategic Studies has found that this was not the case. The poll found that the democratic process was reversing in 1996 compared to 1993. Not surprisingly, it was found that political parties also had a lesser contribution in the political life of the country and had ceased to be effective in society. When were they ever effective? The poll found that tribalism and patronage continue to have a strong grip on society. About 18.3 percent of the respondents said that Jordan is still in its initial stage of the democratic process. 70.1 percent said that Jordan

is in the middle stage while 5.5 percent said that Jordan is a country that reached the ultimate in democratic freedoms!

### Kabariti for population

It seems that the white revolution of the government is not out of steam after all. The population is becoming high on the agenda from now on. Prime Minister Kabarti is instructing ministries and government agencies to start implementing the National Population Strategy which was adopted by the government in March. But what does that mean, one might ask? This simply means coordination with the National Population Committee over any projects and plans relating to population that the government wishes to undertake. Could someone tell us exactly what this means?

### Helping poor areas, finally!

The Greater Amman Municipality (GAM) is again to be congratulated for its dynamic role in society. While some may say better late than never, the municipality is at last moving into improving the terrain of poor areas in and around Amman.

About 11 areas for development have been chosen. These "pockets of poverty" are in Al Mahata, Al Quseih, Wadi Al-Haddadi, Wadi Abdoun, Al-Lawzi neighborhood, Mohammad Amin Camp, Abu Alla, Al-Tafaleh neighborhood, Al-Nuzha, Al-Taj, Aum Nuwara and Wadi Al-Murbit. The object is to provide better infrastructure and services for people living in these areas, municipality officials say.

Al Mahata seems to be the first area to benefit since both population and technical studies have already been completed. Officials say Al Mahata will serve as a role model for development of other areas. The Mahata project covers 84 dunums with a population of 5,000. New roads and playgrounds are envisaged for the camp to make it easier for the movement of people.



Jahel Rifaat/Dustour

## Prince Hassan visits Safawi

The development of Jordan's Badia region was the main focus of HRH Prince Hassan's visit to the northern desert last week. The Prince, who was accompanied by Prime Minister Abdel Karim Kabarti, has always shown a great interest in supporting underprivileged areas in Jordan. He told reporters that the development of the desert must be carried out through greater research and by utilizing the potential resources of these areas.

The visit was in conjunction with the development program for the Al Safawi arid region. The internationally-backed program includes submission of research papers dealing with human resources, agriculture, industry and geology. The program covers an area of 11210 sq. km.

Prince Hassan defined three dimensions for development in the desert. The social

aspect represented through health, education and social development. The natural resources dimension, which include the exploitation of gas resources in the eastern desert. And finally, the vast areas of land that must be used for agriculture and grazing. This would not be achieved unless water resources are preserved. The program is conducted under the supervision of the High Council of Science and Technology.

### Good news for journalists

The editor of the leftist weekly *Al-Ahali*, Mr Osama Al-Rantisi, walked free out of court as presiding Judge Basam Al-Yamani of the Salt Court of First Instance rejected charges made against him. Mr Rantisi was charged earlier of distributing leaflets against the reception of Jewish tourists during the Fuhais Cultural Festival of August last year. He was also accused of belonging to an illegal committee, the anti-Normalization Committee.

Two other lawyers charged with Mr Rantisi, Mr Akf Daoud and Mr Sabri Akroush also walked free. The issue of belonging to the committee is still controversial, since it is a coordinating framework for most of the opposition parties. The Rantisi case is a case in point. Many people before were also taken to court for belonging to the same organization. Once in court, they are invariably set free by the judges. We need a final decision, as previous legal presence about the organization has not worked. Let us stop wasting the courts' and judges' valuable time, since

they have more pressing legal matters to deal with.

### Good riddance!

The Jordanian citizen who named his son Rabin after the late Israeli Prime Minister is presently in Israel visiting relatives. Rajae Saad told the Israeli press that no one will employ him in Jordan simply because of the name he had given to his son. He said he is seriously thinking of staying in Israel and looking for a job. Any offers for an unemployed farm hand?

## Kabariti

Continued from page 1

fight corruption, and introduce transparency in government," Izziden said.

The IAF submitted a documented report to the government about several cases of corruption. "The government knows that corruption is rooted in the country but it is hesitant and afraid to deal seriously with it," Mansour said.

The foreign policy of the government is dramatically affecting the internal situation. Its unclear policy towards the Palestinian National Authority, Iraq and the close relations with Israel imbalanced Jordan's regional and Arab role. "The rather controversial political decisions in foreign affairs negatively affected the country," Izziden said. "Our relations with the Gulf countries have been improved but not to an extent to encourage their businessmen to invest in Jordan."

"Jordanian diplomacy still cannot reflect the deep public reservations towards Israel," he added.

"The government came to implement the so-called peace treaty despite the fact that people feel this treaty is serving the Zionist enemy and spoil relations with the Arab countries," Mansour said. "Although the recent position towards Iraq does not serve our people and interests, the government is still walking on this track."

## EL Al is delayed yet again

El Al, the Israeli national airline has yet again postponed its first flights to the Kingdom. Initially scheduled to begin on 19 May, over the telephone, the carrier's agent in Amman, who requested anonymity, told *The Star* that the delay is due to technical and administrative reasons. He said that the final date will be in the last week of June. The number of weekly flights, he said, are expected to be 5.

## UNRWA will solution to its says Hans



By Eyad Ammar  
Special to the Star

WILL not reduce its services to the definition in its budget," said the general of UNRWA at a press conference. The UNRWA had concluded a two-day meeting to discuss the budget for 1996.

UNRWA is not likely to be able to meet the needs of the refugees, the general said. "So far, the UNRWA has been able to meet the needs of the refugees, but it is not enough," he said.

The general denied that UNRWA had a deficit of \$18 million. He said that the deficit was only \$10 million, and that it was due to the increase in the number of refugees.

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## Tour operators promote Indian tourism

Continued from page 3

and said that Jordan too could soon become a tourist destination for Indians. A buyer-seller meeting was held where Indian and Jordanian tour operators discussed package tours to India. Royal Jordanian currently flies to New Delhi and Calcutta and will shortly start service to Bombay. Air India has started service to Tel Aviv. An Indian embassy source said many Indians are interested in visiting the Holy Land and Jordan but are finding difficulty in obtaining tourist visas to Jordan, which usually take more than a month to issue. Jordanians can obtain visas to India in one day.

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## Iraqi hospitals suffer from lack of drugs, disrepair

Continued from page 1

sensitive medical equipment. Tests became out of the question. Baby incubators became obsolete. According to the 1995 WHO report only 29 percent of Iraqi medical labs are in use because the equipment had stopped functioning.

"My daughter was born premature; she stayed for 10 days in hospital but died on the eleventh because of problems with incubators," said a well-to-do father. Even his money couldn't save his baby girl.

"Major hospital surgeries have been reduced by 71 percent," said the minister. This is due to lack of analgesia, and antiseptics to sterilize wounds.

UNICEF and the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC) supply the Al Mansour hospital. This is only 10 percent of the drugs and equipment needed and it is not enough. A syringe is not used only once by a patient but during his entire stay in hospital.

The number of doctors in Iraq decreased. Many emigrated because of low pay and poor working and living conditions. On average doctors receive 4,500 Iraqi dinars a month, about \$6.

The number of doctors working in a hospital in northern Iraq in 1990 was 95. This decreased to 88 in 1995. The lack of nurses is a more staggering problem. Every child admitted to hospital was accompanied by his mother to take care of him. While plates,

glasses and spoons have to be brought by the mother, she is not entitled to any hospital food.

Children enter hospital because of malnourishment and chronic diarrhea because of polluted water and food and must be given dehydrant solutions and treated milk. But both items are in short supply.

"The Red Cross and Red Crescent cover only 5 percent of our needs," said Dr Mahmoud.

As in every society poor people become the first victims of a crisis.

In spite of the shortage of drugs, black marketers exploit the situation and force people to buy at exorbitant prices. The economic situation has become so bad that it is forcing pharmacists in hospitals to steal drugs coming into hospitals and sell it on the black market. The will to survive has made enemies out of brothers.

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## Cairo meeting stresses openness

Continued from page 1

say that the coming period will witness an improvement in inter Arab relations. They add that some other Arab countries may take part in the forthcoming Amman Summit (from the Arab Maghreb or Gulf states), as an expression of their full support to the peace camp.

As for the Iraqi issue, the three leaders agreed to exert all possible effort to alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi people. They also noted some signals of support from Iraq to the countries involved in the peace process as that directly affect Iraq. Hence, Iraq will be closer to Egypt and Jordan than Syria which has recently patroned an Iraqi opposition conference in its territory.

In this respect, the Israel-Turkey alliance was discussed, and its impact on the region was viewed. The three leaders agreed that King Hussein will explain these developments during his trip, today, to Ankara. King Hussein will also pronounce the three parties interest in maintaining cooperation with Turkey and strengthen its role in the stability of the region.

The leaders agreed that further joint efforts should be made to bring Iraq back into the Arab and international communities, to end the suffering of the Iraqi people, and preserve its sovereignty and territorial integrity. The three leaders also agreed that all problems that are associated with water should be solved in ways which serve continued development in the region and prevent the eruption of disputes on this matter in the future.

The prime minister Shimon Peres and his personal activities. Or as he involved politically. "We are in the case with the issue of UNRWA always supplies information, especially in political matters," he added.

He said that UNRWA was not likely to be able to meet the needs of the refugees, and that it was not enough. He said that UNRWA was not likely to be able to meet the needs of the refugees, and that it was not enough.

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It is Springtime Now!

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## First Ladies

Continued from page 1

ing commitment to social solidarity. He said democracy, pluralism and respect for human rights must go hand in hand with development and the combat of poverty. He added that upgrading the status of rural women requires stability and peace saying that rural women are the main victims of civil wars and national strife.

Founded in 1992 the Geneva Summit for the Economic Advancement of Rural Women promised to serve as an advocacy group comprising wives of heads of states and governments representing the world's five regions. Queen Noor, current ISC president, paid tribute in her opening speech to Queen Fabiola of Belgium who she said was "the source of energy that has motivated a lot to achieve the progress to rural women through ideas."

"Four years ago, most of us were meeting in Geneva to lay the foundations for a campaign, quite unaware, no doubt, that it would lead us here today, but hoping that it would serve to make the whole world aware of the need to act quickly, and indeed as a matter of priority, in favour of poor rural women, of whom there are still so many on this earth," the Queen said.

The Geneva Declaration in 1992 was the first of its kind in that it focused exclusively on rural women, whose contribution to global development has been consistently undervalued and whose under-representation in decision-making increased their marginalization.

Experts read the book entitled *Sustainable Development* focusing on women and rural progress published by the King Baudouin Foundation and Belgium Administration for Development Co-operation, now agree that the best and perhaps the only way to achieve sustainable rural development in developing countries is to orient it towards the people living in those areas, working with the full participation of both women and men. They add that in most developing countries, regardless of their culture, women represent a major source of labor and food production.

"I have grown banana, citrus, palm trees, vegetables for export. Raised cattle as well as fish. Not all my projects were successful due to unseasonable cold spells, bad rainy season or drought all this can destroy months of hard work, wiping out families in the process. I was lucky that I had a supportive family, both morally and financially. Other women and their families were not so lucky," said Najwa Sha'sha'ah, a farmer in Jordan Valley.

Statistics reveal that 70 percent of the world's poor are women and that 550 million of them live in the countryside. They also reveal that over the past two decades 50 percent of them have sunk below the poverty line.

Reports highlighting World Bank, NGOs and donors perspectives were presented on the second day of the conference.

During their visit to Jordan, the Noor Al Hussein Foundation, which is involved in working with rural Jordanian women, took members of the participating delegations to one of its projects in the Iraq El Amir area.



● HRH Crown Prince Hassan receives Mr Andrew Robinson at the Royal court, Monday. Mr Robinson heads the Refugee Working Group, that are part of the multilateral peace talks. The RWG is currently headed by Canada. The Prince called on the world community to deal with the question of Palestinian refugees in a comprehensive perspective, embracing the humanitarian, material and economic dimensions of the issue. He urged the RWG to employ all available expertise and information in order to give momentum to the peace process stressing that the refugee question was a regional issue related to other basic regional questions like water, the environment, economic and human resources development.

## Her Majesty Queen Noor

# 'I am not going to be all things to all people, because I wouldn't be much good to anybody'

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is an interview with Her Majesty Queen Noor made recently by the BBC World Service. The interview took place in Al Maw'el Palace in Amman. Excerpts follow:

In view of the volatility of the Middle East, how do you remain so positive?

I think, by nature, I have been an optimistic person most of my life. However, that has certainly been reinforced by my husband.

I have learned a great deal from his faith, as well as his optimism, and that has reinforced what I feel as an attitude and an approach, to life and work, especially here, which, I hope, we have passed on to our own children. More than that, influencing so many around us, not only at this time in the history of the Middle East, which is a particularly challenging and difficult one, but also because I think that this region has, since its early history, been the birthplace of three great religions that based so much of their messages on the faith and optimism that come from having faith.

To anyone outside trying to establish peace in the Middle East, which is the goal, is a bit like rolling a stone up a hill. How do you keep hold of that yourself?

Well, there are many who look at that somewhat differently today, in spite of the tragedy of recent events in Lebanon. Yes, we do have a tendency to take a step forward and sometimes several steps back. That is the way things may look right at the moment. But progress has been made.

There has been the beginning of a new kind of dynamic, new relationships, new interaction between previous enemies, and those who in many cases would have never dreamed that they might find common ground, whether political, economic, intercultural, or on the most human level.

But you see it is a huge responsibility for an intelligent Arab-American who comes to realize that her life will change forever, and become a Queen. Did you ever have doubts and ever imagined how difficult it might be?

Well, I certainly did not have enough time to think through everything you have said, which is probably just as well.

As far as doubts, yes, I thought long and hard and I delayed quite some time in making my decision, because on one hand, between the two of us, I had no doubts in terms of the most fundamental reasons for making a choice like that. But in terms of what I felt were the responsibilities that I would be assuming, I wanted to think very clearly whether the type of woman that I had grown into, should continue evolving and growing, whether that was the type of woman that could be—I guess as inspirational, if you will, a figure



Queen Noor with Queen Fabiola of Belgium and Queen Sophia of Spain in Amman this week

within this society as it merited.

What sort of woman would you describe yourself as, then?

Well, I had been a working woman. I had worked from the time I was quite young, actually. Then worked from the time I graduated using the field of architecture and urban planning that I had my degree in from university, which proved very useful in different parts of the world.

The most important thing was the multi-disciplinary approach that I had acquired in examining architectural or urban planning problems in particular in my studies. In fact, it is something that I have made use of ever since, whether in looking at an urban planning problem or looking at the needs of a community in a rural area of Jordan or elsewhere. It was an ideal field of study for the life that I have had over these last 20 years or so.

How much were you aware of your Arab connection. How important was that to you in your childhood?

We did not grow up in an Arab-American community in the United States. Like many ethnic groups that immigrated there, my father's work led him in and out of government. So we were in and out of Washington and moving every four years and leading a somewhat nomadic life, if you will. In the US when I first understood that was part of my identity and my heritage—my Arab family, I remember being fascinated at the age of five or six, and feeling that this was something that made me very special. I clung to it in what was a very conformist atmosphere in the United States at that point in time.

As I grew older, I became interested and probably more aware of the political problems of the region which, to this day,

have always been the prism through which people have looked at the region—either the political problems or the social and cultural extremes that become very politicized in the way that they are conveyed to us through nuances.

So not very much was available to me except the way that Middle East crises were covered in the press, and it is one of the reasons that I wanted to return to this region. In fact, I used architecture and urban planning to help position me in this area where I could begin to use those skills to learn about the people, their needs and their condition.

But you made the decision and you married, and now you take on three different roles. You are a queen, a career woman and a mother. For less strong people, that would be too much. How easy it is to adjust and be able to balance those three demands.

Well, I don't know that any woman in my position—and I consider myself one woman of millions around the world who are trying to balance work and family, no matter how extraordinary some of the circumstances may seem to be—probably feels very adequate at it. It is a life-time struggle to balance. And it will never stop. We already have nine grandchildren and other two are possibly on the way. So from one generation to the next one, we will still be trying to balance the responsibilities and expectations that people have of you on all levels.

I knew from the conversations I had had with my husband that I was sharing many of the same kinds of concerns. Our priorities in life were very similar. I was very interested in the peace process, the image of this region and how it was understood by the Western world.

I felt that there was an affinity in what was most important to the two of us, and that in my marriage I would be able to work for the same kinds of things that had been important to me as a young person and a student and then as a working woman that had arrived in the region.

Do you feel you have done that?

I have so many more opportunities to do that than I ever imagined at the time. At the time I felt that there was so much to be done. I had lived long enough in Jordan and I had lived and travelled throughout the Arab world. I knew that there was an enormous amount to be done. I also knew that Jordan was a unique country in this region, that it was more stable, more moderate, more balanced and less fearful than the other societies that I had known in my travels during that period of the mid-70s.

Do you sometimes, at the end of a long day, get to the end of it and think: "I wonder if I have really achieved very much today?"

I realized early that the stereotypical role, or perhaps just the natural role, of a woman in my position was to try to be all things to all people. I also decided that I was not going to try to be all things to all people, because then I would not be much good to anybody. So, I would try to focus on areas where I could fill in gaps in development, for example, where I could try to present new ideas, where I could support those in need of support in order to achieve their goals.

I quickly fell into a role that I had not thought about very much, but it was the extension of my early journalism interest. And with my husband's support, I acquired a unique role for a wife of a Head of State, certainly for someone from this part of the world, as a bridge between East and West. He supported my addressing the most challenging, pressing and complicated political issues, as well as other issues in the United States and abroad, especially during crisis periods where there has been the need for trying to dispel rumours.

One thing we were fascinated about was the magnitude of the task of helping this country to better itself.

The way I began to try to develop an approach to my work in the country was first by doing the research, then identifying the gaps, and then trying to develop the human resources.

Of course the work that you do in Jordan is very important. You are also president of an international steering committee comprised of First Ladies from around the world. What does it do and what does it hope to achieve?

It is a group of representatives from the five regions that will rotate over the years so that we will have different countries represented. They are basically joined in this



Tour operators promote Indian tourism

AMMAN (Star)—A one-day Indo-Jordan Travel and Tourism meeting was held in Amman Tuesday at the Hotel Inter-Continental bringing together travel and tour operators from Jordan and India.

Organized by the Government of India's Regional Tourism Office in Dubai, the meeting was attended by the Indian ambassador in Amman Mr Gajanan Wakankar, Regional Director of GORTO Mr Shahir Mustafa Naqvi and a number of Indian and Jordanian travel operators. The meeting included short presentations on India as a destination for Jordanian tourists.

Speakers said that in 1995 about 3000 Jordanian tourists visited India and expressed hopes that with increased promotion more Jordanians will be considering India as their next holiday destination. Mr Naqvi said his goal is to promote India as an all seasons destination offering everything from sandy beaches to mountain resorts, nature sanctuaries to carnivals and fairs, good cuisine to bargain shopping.

Mr Wakankar praised cooperation between Jordan and India

Continued on page 2



institutional framework, if you will, to promote the implementation of something called the Geneva Declaration for Rural Woman, which was adopted four years ago at a very large meeting of wives of Heads of State. I think our intent is to ensure that we are not to be remembered only as a photo opportunity, which is what the cynics were convinced of at the time.

I presume you have to believe that this is not just rhetoric, not just lip service to women, particularly women in rural areas. You have to believe that by convening a group of such stature, even if you do not have any political clout, it is worth doing?

Well, there are varying degrees of political clout—or you can define political clout in different ways. One of the reasons that these women were brought together in the first place was because they can exercise an influence on opinion makers, and many of them themselves are professionals and opinion makers. No longer can First Ladies be stereotyped as just housewives. Many are incredible professionals. Hillary Clinton is the obvious example, but there are so many others less well-known: doctors, lawyers, business professionals, and whatever, many of whom, or all of whom have different roles that they can play whether in terms of influencing the head of state, or in terms of their involvement as advocates or opinion makers in their own right.

What has made that transition work for you? Is it that you are adaptable?

I hope so, I mean I do not want to address or, in any

## ANNOUNCEMENT

The Box Office for reservations for 'Absolutely British' week at Forte Grand Amman 14th-21st June will open in the lobby of the hotel daily from 10am-8pm from 20th May - 21st June. Call 696511 for more details.







## Our Say...

### UN's mandate in Iraq is over

AS MILLIONS of Iraqi people await the outcome of the oil-for-food negotiations in New York, which have been dragging aimlessly on and on for months now, the time to reopen the whole UN sanctions file against Iraq could not be more opportune. For we all know by now that the US will find a way to derail the current talks in order to prolong Iraq's seizure.

Ever since the Security Council imposed its wholesale embargo against Iraq as punishment for invading Kuwait there were those, inside and outside the Arab world, who have been calling for their removal or curtailment. But Iraq's attempts to break free from the grip hold of the sanctions, running into their sixth year, have all failed.

In the beginning, the world, still stunned from Iraq's swift invasion of Kuwait and the Gulf War that followed, was ready to tow the US line and impose the sanctions in the hope that Iraq's arsenal of chemical and biological weapons of mass destruction would be dismantled. And it worked. More than four years of gruelling UN inspections and physical destruction of these arsenals, Iraq appears to have complied with all UN resolutions concerning its weapons program. By all accounts, Iraq has nothing to hide anymore and if there is something out there, the meticulous UN inspectors would have stumbled into it by now.

But for many months, the Security Council has been extending the embargo almost automatically, while on the ground UN inspectors appear to be involved in a wild goose chase. Nothing wrong with that if it wasn't for the tremendous and outrageous price that the people of Iraq are paying while waiting for the US and Britain, the only two countries who blindly refuse to even partially lift the embargo, to soften up and decide that enough is enough.

Well enough is enough! We know as well as the whole world that nothing justifies the death of Iraqi babies because of malnutrition, lack of medical supplies in ill-equipped hospitals and polluted drinking water. Nothing justifies the breaking up of a country as proud and rich as Iraq no matter what UN inspectors believe or claim.

We are again reminded of the double standards that the US administration, and unfortunately Britain, apply when dealing with the plight of the Iraqi people. The case today is not about digging up secret labs and underground factories in Iraq, but it is about keeping Iraq weak and ailing for as long as possible. The case today is not about removing the regime of Saddam Hussein, for that is not the mandate of the UN or any other party. The case is not about democracy in Iraq, for that too is not the business of any party but the Iraqi people. The case today is not about finding the whereabouts of missing Kuwaitis, compensation or new borderlines. The case is an anathema to all Arabs. We are sick of America's hypocrisy, UN's inaptitude, Western malaise and Arab impotence in dealing with the Iraqi issue.

That is why the time has come to reopen the case and exhume the dead for a second look. The UN's mandate in Iraq is over. It can continue long-term monitoring, but it must remove its bloody hands from the livelihood of millions of Iraqis. Our leaders, our intellectuals and our politicians must make a stand on this issue. Appearing our "friends" by looking the other way is making us all accessory to mass murder. ■

## Attack bus stop; effect on election

JERUSALEM—When Israeli radio reported that gunmen had opened fire on Jewish settlers at a West Bank bus stop on Monday, the first question on many political minds was: "Is this the terrorist attack that will sway the election?"

It was the same question that arose when Hezbollah guerrillas fired on Israeli soldiers in Southern Lebanon on Sunday. It even came to many Israelis when an unusually loud sonic boom shook Jerusalem last week, prompting hundreds of panicky telephone calls to police.

As 29 May election draws near, Israelis increasingly are jumpy, anticipating a mass attack by Palestinian extremists in central Israel or by Muslim guerrillas on the northern border.

But no one is more worried

than Prime Minister Shimon Peres, who, in addition to fearing for Israeli lives, is fighting for political survival.

Peres has been hanging on to a fragile five-point lead in the race against right-wing Likud Party leader Benjamin Netanyahu that even members of his own Labor Party concede would disappear quickly with a devastating assault. Peres knows from experience this is true—he blames his loss to the Likud's Yitzhak Rabin in 1988 on a Palestinian attack on an Israeli bus in Jericho.

Just how massive an attack it would take to turn the election no one can predict in a country that is simultaneously accused to violence and fed up to do with the very psychology of terrorism—with how many people die and how off-balance

or insecure it makes Israelis feel.

Monday's attack occurred outside of Beit El about 12 miles north of Jerusalem. Israelis soon learned that the gunmen left one teenage seminary student dead and another seriously wounded.

The attackers first shot at a bus carrying Jewish settlers, but the shots did not penetrate the armored windshield that is routinely used on West Bank buses as protection against such terrorist attacks. Two passengers were slightly hurt when the driver slammed on the brakes after the shooting.

The gunmen, presumably Palestinians, then turned their fire on a bus stop about a mile away, killing 17-year-old David Reuven Baum, who was also an American citizen. ■

# It's time for the freemen to become jailbirds

By Carrie Nalle Moyer  
Star US correspondent

WHAT HAPPENED in Waco in 1994 was a tragedy. No matter what one thought of David Koresh and/or his cult, no matter what the truth is of the many varied stories as to the legality, morality, or intentions of the actions of the FBI, the very fact that so many persons, particularly children, were killed (even exclusive of the way in which they died), it was a tragedy.

But Waco is in the past. Perhaps we learned some lessons there or perhaps we did not. Whatever the truth was regarding that situation, today is today. It is time the self-proclaimed "Freemen" are shown that being a citizen of the United States does not guarantee anarchy. It does not guarantee that an individual or group of individuals can decide that legislatively-cum-social-imposed laws can declare such laws non-applicable to them. When they make reference to the intentions of the "founding fathers," the Freemen speak liberally of their own interpretation of the freedom about which our Declaration of Independence and later our Constitution were written.

Hogwash!

Our founders were attempting to guarantee the rights of all persons in this nation both individually and collectively. When there is overt emotional conflict between the two, the "collectively" must take precedence over the "individually" or else we shall return to the primitive state of self/family/tribal communal warfare, ultimately culminating in a might-makes-right dictatorship, the antithesis of what our founders envisioned, fought for and initiated.

Consider this. There are things with which I disagree within our government. So I establish "Carrie Nalle's Hills and Dales" on 1,000 acres, declare my cohorts and me to be "Freemen," answerable to no one but ourselves, and dare anyone to contradict my actions. I have an abundant supply of food (the

Mormons taught me that), hundreds of gallons of bottled water (which were placed in my bomb shelter in the early stages of the Cold War); a minimum of three firearms per person, including assault weapons (due to my strict devotion to, and verbal/written promotion of, the National Rifle Association, I was given these to defend myself from a government unwilling to restrict my access to self-protection); and I have unlimited conjugal visits with my spouse. Indeed, my followers and I have unlimited conjugal visits, but we can not say that as that sounds too much like a hippie commune of the 1960s and the Good Lord above knows we are not like that.

Did I say followers? Of course. I can out-Koresh David, out-Jones James, out-Robertson Pat: why I can even out-Buchanan the other Pat. Charisma; that is what I have. And I have my freedom, by golly, and no one—no quasi-government (QG), no quasi-branch of a QG, be it local or federal, will infringe on my God-given and Founder-given rights.

You think me a hypocrite for accepting over \$650,000 dollars in farm subsidies during the last 10 years from this QG? Why no, honey; all's fair in love and war. The QG was stupid enough to give it to me so I accepted. Besides, my subsidies were legitimate. "Carrie Nalle's Hills and Dales" personnel were attempting to make our oasis in the South into a genuine Eden. Of course it was necessary for me to purchase several Lincoln Continentals, because if I could not appear prosperous, the QG would think it had invested poorly, and I might receive no more.

Speaking of investments: certainly I made frequent trips to Las Vegas.

These had a two-fold purpose: after toiling on my land, it was only natural I needed plenty of R and R, and what better way to do this than to go to the city-of-epitome-of-investments, Las Vegas? Two birds with one stone, you see? Sorry, folks. I simply can not buy the above scenario anymore. The hold-outs near Jordan, Montana, aka "Justus Township," have been more than coddled by law enforcement officials from local police through the FBI. Members, having already broken numerous laws, and encouraging all who will listen to further commit crimes, ranging from writing bogus checks to declaring open hunting on "legislators, judges, police officers and ministers" should expect no more patience.

Most of us, the public, have long since exhausted ours. Indeed, as much as we may regret having to resort to bloodshed to maintain order in our land, if we allow our bluff to be called much longer in Justice Township, we might as well negotiate laws.

And this can not be. The FBI can not stand with its tail hanging limply between its legs, and otherwise be impotent, lest we lose not just the respect for our laws but encourage more of the same until anarchy does indeed become the norm rather than the exception.

No doubt every single US citizen would like to change some point(s) in our government. There's a way to do it. But the "Freemen" haven't found it. The South seceded; it didn't work because it was wrong. It will not work outside Jordan, Montana. Should the Freemen or any of their ilk persist in disassociating from our country rather than legally changing from within, may they read Canto VI of "The Lay of the Last Minstrel" by Sir Walter Scott. ■



## Media circus around OJ Simpson trial

# A case of racial justice revisited

The Search for Justice, A defense attorney's brief on the O.J. Simpson case by Robert L. Shapiro with Larkin Warren, Warner Books, \$24.95, pp.363.

Reviewed by Henry Weinstein

THE O.J. Simpson murder case, an aberration in virtually every respect from what happens in the nation's criminal courtrooms every day, has now brought us a commodity almost as rare as a well-financed defense—the sore winner.

Robert Shapiro and his colleagues gained an acquittal in the most watched trial in history. Yet,

he's not satisfied with legal victory. Fearing that outrage over the verdict reflects badly on him, he seems to have written this book in no small measure to convince readers—dare I say white readers in particular—that controversial defense tactics were not his idea and that someone else deserves the blame.

In *The Search for Justice*, Shapiro provides a mostly chronological narrative of "the Trial of the Century." He contends that a verdict of acquittal was fully justified because the defense team made Swiss cheese of critical parts of the prosecution case against the former football star. "Their mountain of evidence collapsed under an avalanche of incompetence, contamination and lies."

Shapiro, who loves to refer to himself as the defense team's "quarterback," says that he is proud of his work on behalf of Simpson. Clearly, he rightly can claim credit for making, in the weeks after the grisly June 12, 1994, murders of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald L. Goldman, a number of critical moves that were instrumental in his client's eventual acquittal.

Among them were hiring forensic scientists and a top-flight group of attorneys, who came to be known as "the Dream Team." By aggressively pushing the case fast, he kept the prosecutors off balance, and his skilled cross-examination of coroner Dr. Irwin Golden at the preliminary hearing provided an early glimpse of serious problems that undermined the prosecution's case.

As much as anything, Shapiro's goal seems to be to convince readers that he is the Atticus Finch of this tragic tale: a good

guy who tried honorably to defend a seemingly guilty client in the best American tradition—unlike some of his colleagues, who are less flatteringly portrayed.

In particular, he chastises Johnnie L. Cochran Jr., who supplanted him as Simpson's lead lawyer, for being an irresponsible advocate, unnecessarily escalating the racial dynamics of the case, for engaging in discovery violations and over-promising and what the defense could prove in his opening statement. He also derides F. Lee Bailey, his old friend turned enemy, for poor lawyering and for leaking information to the tabloids.

In his book and in television appearances hawking it, Shapiro loudly deplores Cochran's playing "the race card." Shapiro says the defense did such a good job of creating reasonable doubt that Simpson could have prevailed without Cochran's dramatic entreaties to the jury in his closing argument to draw a line in the sand against racist police abuse.

Reader beware: Whatever you think of the verdict, whatever you think of Cochran, don't kid yourself that the so-called "race card" started with him. Shapiro played that card early, as soon as he learned about some of the problems in Detective Mark Fuhrman's past. That set the tone for one of the critical issues of the case and Shapiro's attempts to distance himself from it are unconvincing.

Before Simpson became his client on 13 June, 1994, Shapiro wrote a widely cited article in a legal journal advising other lawyers on how to deal with the media. He advised his colleagues to avoid describing a homicide for which a client was accused as a "tragedy." Instead, he suggested using a phrase like "horrible human event." If such phrases are repeated continuously, he wrote, "they will be repeated by the media. After a while, the repetition almost becomes a fact. That is the lawyer's ultimate goal." Those are the words of an experienced spin doctor.

Shapiro's memory is also selective. For example, he neglects to mention that on 27 October, 1994, he and Cochran held separate, well-choreographed news conferences accusing prosecutors of questioning black candidates for the jury more aggressively than whites. If anything, Shapiro's remarks that day were more strident than Cochran's. "It implies an insidious effort to try to get black jurors removed for cause because they are black, because they have black heroes, and because O.J. Simpson is one of them. There's no other reason."

Then there was Shapiro's direct examination of one of the defense's key expert witnesses, Dr. Michael Baden, a former New York medical examiner.

Shapiro wants to airbrush his role on matters other than the media, particularly race. At several points in the book, Shapiro laments how race came to dominate the case once Cochran took the lead role on the defense team. I don't doubt that Shapiro and Cochran did clash sharply on this point. But Shapiro avoids a key issue.

Early in the trial, Bailey elicited memorable testimony from Fuhrman that he had not used the word "nigger" in the past decade. The defense already had with

Shapiro writes that Cochran made much too much of race—particularly in his closing argument. And he blasts Cochran for linking "Fuhrman, a banal, petty, mindless racist, with the most monstrous murder of all time, Adolf Hitler" during the closing argument. Shapiro calls the comparison "gratuitous, inflammatory... just plain wrong" and "completely unnecessary."

Perhaps, Cochran's remarks did indeed precipitate intense debate, particularly in the Jewish community, even though his Jewish colleagues on the defense team—other than Shapiro—defended the remarks as an appropriate reminder to the jury that they ought not to countenance civil.

Both the Simpson trial and its aftermath have been painful reminders that we have not progressed nearly as far as we should have in addressing racial injustice. Blacks continue to be the victims of all sorts of unjustified oppression and Simpson's defense team appears to have been the beneficiary of black distrust of white institutions. Don't forget, though, that one Latino and two whites also voted not guilty.

There are some interesting moments in this book. There is a good description of the "controlled chaos" at Robert Kardashian's house before Simpson disappeared with his old friend, A.C. Cowlings, leading to the infamous slow-speed case. "Now he was sitting in his underwear, methodically arranging custody of his children and power of attorney over his personal and business affairs, while nurses drew blood out of his arms and scientists pulled hairs out of his head."

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Then there was Shapiro's direct examination of one of the defense's key expert witnesses, Dr. Michael Baden, a former New York medical examiner.

Shapiro writes that Cochran made much too much of race—particularly in his closing argument. And he blasts Cochran for linking "Fuhrman, a banal, petty, mindless racist, with the most monstrous murder of all time, Adolf Hitler" during the closing argument. Shapiro calls the comparison "gratuitous, inflammatory... just plain wrong" and "completely unnecessary."

Perhaps, Cochran's remarks did indeed precipitate intense debate, particularly in the Jewish community, even though his Jewish colleagues on the defense team—other than Shapiro—defended the remarks as an appropriate reminder to the jury that they ought not to countenance civil.

Both the Simpson trial and its aftermath have been painful reminders that we have not progressed nearly as far as we should have in addressing racial injustice. Blacks continue to be the victims of all sorts of unjustified oppression and Simpson's defense team appears to have been the beneficiary of black distrust of white institutions. Don't forget, though, that one Latino and two whites also voted not guilty.

There are some interesting moments in this book. There is a good description of the "controlled chaos" at Robert Kardashian's house before Simpson disappeared with his old friend, A.C. Cowlings, leading to the infamous slow-speed case. "Now he was sitting in his underwear, methodically arranging custody of his children and power of attorney over his personal and business affairs, while nurses drew blood out of his arms and scientists pulled hairs out of his head."

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## Middle East Beat

by Khairi Janbek

### Final status

IT TAKES one to have a dream, another to negotiate it, and God knows what it takes to have a fantasy. Of course one is writing in the context of the final status negotiations between the PNA and Israel. It is okay to dream and fantasize, realising the first is fruitful, while the latter usually turns out to be a disappointment.

So where are the final status negotiations on this long overdue of dreams and illusions? Arafat and Peres, indicated their intentions for the realisation of Palestinian statehood, giving the impression that this is really the case. But from the recent trip of both leaders, to the USA, one finds more in the stuff of fantasy rather than dreams for legitimate Palestinian aspirations. Mr Peres walks away with Jerusalem as the united capital of Israel, and three billion dollars better off while Mr Arafat expressed satisfaction with the results of conversations with Mr Clinton.

One does not have to be a genius to figure out in whose comfort, American foreign policy is concerned with. Mr Peres will undoubtedly use the material gains to the advantage of his election campaign. But to whose advantage, and in which development project, will Mr Arafat's empty plea for financial support?

The dye is already cast, and the outcome of those negotiations are not likely to benefit the underdog. So before all is lost on the alters of political vanity and indiscriminate deception, the organic unity of Jordanians and Palestinians is the only natural resources that can be drawn upon to materialize the strong and lasting peace for our region.

The occupied West Bank must not remain as an appendage to historical fallacies, and as a geographical point on the compass of the traveller. The unity of both people on the two banks of the Jordan River is, older than geo-political perceptions, and transient philosophical ideologies.

If it is true that the negotiations will eventually produce a status for the Occupied Territories, then all those tripartite agreements between Jordan, Israel, and the PNA must not be devoid of their real political content—namely, political sovereignty. For the lack of such an important content allows Israel to block the Occupied Territories even from the Jordanian side, thus rendering all the other agreements with the PNA superfluous.

If there is any point for the tripartite negotiations, it is to guarantee equality between all parties concerned, and that can only be achieved through the political angle. It is surprising therefore, to see that the most deeply concerned parties, regarding this issue left to their own resources to fight the battle of peace building, while Israel, and another fraternal Arab country, unrelated to the issue, benefit from the benevolence of American foreign policy. If real peace is to be achieved, the economic and political stability of the most needy in this formula must be guaranteed.

It is becoming apparent that there is an attempt to stop Jordan from joining the tripartite negotiations on the future of the occupied West Bank. Though Jordan before, and now, acknowledge the PNA as the legitimate authority in the West Bank, we are being excluded from attempting to defend our own rights and support for Palestinian brothers. International law demands that Jordan has a say in what goes on in the final status negotiations, and more importantly the reality of the situation demands that Jordan must be a part of what will eventually determine the future of our small area, otherwise the dream of aspirations will only turn out to be, a simple fantasy. ■

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Publisher & Editor-in-Chief

Osama El-Sherif

Managing Editor

Dr Marwan Al Asmar

Assistant Editor

Awni Abu Ghosh

Editorial Team

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## Business scene

■ The Agricultural Credit Corp. has offered JD 4.7 million in loans this year to 1546 farmers. About 1051 received such loans for the first time.

■ Jordanian Expatriates Investment Co. decided to rotate its JD 164,300 profit of 1995, and to increase its paid up capital to JD 10 million.

■ The Ministry of Supply, the only importer of basic food stuffs, offered a \$100 million trust facilities to the Islamic Bank in support of financing increasing imports of items such as: grain, sugar, rice, and barley, etc. Grain purchases this year exceeded the JD 30 million which were allocated by the subsidies program for 1996.

■ The construction sector's contribution to the GDP is 7.4 percent. It incorporates 1300 foundations, 1126 consulting offices, and 110 factories. However, owing to its unsatisfactory performance in the last few years, the construction sector failed to compete with foreign contractors whose ratio increased from 17-48 percent.

■ Arrivals and departures at the Aqaba International Airport amounted to 12,558 passengers during April. There were 342 flights, that is six flights per day on average.

■ The Islamic Bank in Jordan has increased its paid up capital from JD 15 million to JD 22 million. The increase will be covered by the capitalization of JD 3,646 million of the Bank's voluntary reserve and rotated profits.

■ The Middle East Engineering and Electronic Industries (GoldStar) realized net profits of JD 1,925 million by the end of '95 (i.e. 8.75% of the subscribed capital and 94% of the paid up capital).

■ The International Tobacco and Cigarette Co. Ltd. is to increase its paid up capital by JD 3.5 million, reaching a total capital of JD 12.5 million. The company's sales in 1995 were worth JD 31,735 million of which, JD 15,055,490 were paid to the government in fees and taxes. The company decided also to rotate its JD 290,597 profits. The company's sales grew by 460% in 1995.

### Foreign Exchange

Wednesday, 15 MAY

|  | Buy JD | Sell JD |
|--|--------|---------|
|  | 0.7080 | 0.7100  |
|  | 1.0715 | 1.0769  |
|  | 0.4614 | 0.4637  |
|  | 0.5663 | 0.5691  |
|  | 0.1365 | 0.1372  |
|  | 0.6733 | 0.6767  |
|  | 0.4128 | 0.4149  |
|  | 0.8455 | 0.8457  |

# Development of water resources in Jordan Greater efficiency in water management essential for survival

ENSURING SUFFICIENT water supplies is a challenge Jordan faced for the last two decades.

In 1994, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) published in Arabic a study titled *Policies of Land and Water in the Near East—Case Studies of Egypt, Jordan, and Pakistan*. The Jordan section was prepared by Ali Al Ghazzawi, an economist at the Royal Scientific Society in Amman.

Al Ghazzawi says there is a great imbalance in population and water resources in Jordan. The water supply per capita has decreased vis-a-vis rapid population increase. This, limited the water supplies shares, a practice applied for several years. In many underground aquifers, the average level of water draining exceeded those of re-filling them. To meet the increasing demand for municipal and industrial purposes, water

has been—since the late 1970s transferred among the basins, despite its high cost. Water for irrigation was turned to municipal and industrial uses, whereas municipal-treated water partially substituted water for irrigation. The study sees that the water supplies for different uses from surface, underground and refuse water amounted to 950 million cubic meters in 1992. As demand increased, the country was forced to extract 172 million cubic meters of potable water, which is more than the safe average of underground drinking.

External water in Jordan is estimated at an annual 692 million cubic metres. In 1992, only 55 percent of that was utilized. About 475 million cubic metres can be developed from these resources.

The main sources of surface water in Jordan come from floods (334 mcm), and rivers and springs (358 mcm).

Water consumption in Jordan

is determined by various factors:

■ The 7.5 percent population growth rate since 1948, which is more than twice the natural 3.6 percent average growth.

■ Development of the last 30 years, especially the expansion of small-scale industry, transport, mining, construction, and irrigated agriculture. These have raised the average rates of water. Complex construction in 1991 was taking place on land lots of more than seven million square meters, for instance.

■ The rising living standards and the rural migration to urban areas led to an increase in water use. With the exception of the Jordan Valley, the Kingdom witnessed waves of migration to the towns, in search of jobs.

Municipal water uses is one of the main fields of water consumption. More than 97 percent of the population benefit from municipal water networks. In 1992, about 206 mcm were pumped in these networks, which

means a ratio of 50 cm per capita per year (or 136 litre per capita per day). However, the exact need of 56 percent of the water supplies in that year was not known, though an estimated average of 30 percent of those lost water supplies was attributed to leakage.

Hence, the actual home water use per capita was 35 cm per year (i.e. 96 litres per capita per day), less than the recommended 73 cm/year (or 200 litres per capita per day).

The average cost of municipal water supplies is JD 0.5 per 1 cm (from Jordan Valley to Amman). When comparing the volume of leaked water from the networks with the accepted average of losses (i.e. 10%), one concludes that Jordan has lost 41.2 mcm, more than the acceptable average. The annual cost of leakage is about JD 20 million, a more than sufficient amount to invest in new networks.

Industry takes about 4% of total water (i.e. 35 mcm). Industries, such as the oil refinery, Al Hussein's Thermal Station, Phosphate and Potash receive the largest. By 2010, its water share will increase by 140 mcm.

Irrigated agriculture is vital. In the last 20 years, public irrigation in the Jordan Valley, and private irrigation in the heights areas, widened. In the early 1970s, irrigated areas covered 12,000 hectares, and exceeded 61,700 hectares in 1992.

Water needs for irrigation amounted to 800 mcm in 1992. 505 mcm were in the southern Ghor and the Jordan Valley. Only 700 mcm were supplied in that year, and used to irrigate 55,700 hectares out of 63,300 hectares. Some of the land was left unplanted, and crop density decreased. The average water use in the Valley and southern Ghor is 944.5 cm, per hectare per year, and 15 834 cm, per hectare per year in the heights.

The study notes that, in the Jordan Valley, the farmers used to distribute water among themselves on tribal and Islamic basis, i.e. without paying any fees. In 1961, a one-fifth tariff per 1 cm was levied for the first time, and was amended in 1966 to 1-fil per 1 cm

of the first 1800 cm and 2-fils per 1 cm if the consumption exceeded 1800 cm. In 1973, this tariff was raised to 3 fils per 1 cm irrespective of the quantity consumed, and doubled in 1989. It increased again by 10 fils per 1 cm.

Ghazzawi says that current tariffs on irrigated water in the Jordan valley does not cover the operation and maintenance cost, indicating that it receives subsidies. He adds that in 1992 government paid JD 1.44 million to support water supplies, whereas maintenance and operation costs were estimated at JD 2.18 million. Only 150 mcm were sold, and only JD 900,000 were collected from farmers.

Ghazzawi points that Jordan has invested JD 380 million in a comprehensive development plan in the Jordan Valley and southern Ghor, of which JD 127 million were allocated for irrigation projects.

As for irrigation in the heights, water is drained from the wells. No fees are levied on water draining. The estimated pumping cost of one cubic meter is about 50 fils. Both the high cost of the new projects and of their operation is the most crucial issue.

The study stresses that water budgets in Jordan suffer a chronic deficit. It explains that while demand on water supplies increases for the food production, municipalities and industry, water availability is decreasing. Demand on water supplies is expected to rise by 50 percent up to the year 2005, whereas the deficit of supplies will increase by 78 percent in the same period.

The study notes that demand on municipal water is anticipated to reach 350 mcm, as the country's population is expected to grow to 5.3 million by the year 2000. The industry's water consumption will likewise increase by 150 mcm. Thus, the water used for both municipal and industry purposes is expected to amount to 500 mcm (i.e. 66 percent of the total amount of renewable water that can be economically developed).

As for water uses in irrigation, it is expected to increase from 800-1088 mcm in the Jordan Valley and southern Ghor in the year 2000.

## American Promotion Week shows the best in US

THE AMERICAN Promotion Week which provided the best in American products and services ends tomorrow, Friday with a bang.

This show which has drawn tens of thousands of people to the Amman International Fair Hall at Marj Al Hamam was opened by Prime Minister Abdel Karim Khabiri, accompanied by Industry and Trade Minister Ali Abu Ragheh.

Mr Robert Beecroft, the Charge d'affaires of the US Embassy in Amman, said he is delighted to show Jordanians the latest in products, services and developments to American industry.

The annual show, organized by the US Embassy and dealers to American products has grown from 11 to 42 participants since the first exhibition was held four years ago. Beecroft, who believes the ongoing trade promotion will help strengthen trade relations between the two countries stated that, "as a result of the peace process and the Amman Economic Summit, 50 US companies visited Jordan since last November to explore joint business opportunities."

The Commercial Attaché, Gary Grappo, who pointed out that over 25,000 attended last year's show said, a much larger number is expected this year. But Mr Grappo, expressed regret that Jordan-

ians are not able to afford American automobiles on show as a result of the high import duties. "An American car that cost \$35,000 (in the US) is sold for \$78,000 in Jordan because of the high import duties," Grappo explained that the recent tariff reduction had to go much further.

According to Grappo, over 4,000 Jordanian products were exempted in 1995 from the US customs duties under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP). But despite of this preference Jordan's exports to the US amounted only to \$30 million, while imports from the US to the kingdom was valued at about \$355 million. The approval of the GSP for Jordan in 1996, he explained, is still underway as a result of the long running debate on the budget to the US Congress, "but we are quite optimistic that it will be approved".

American products and services on display include automobiles, automotive accessories, spare parts, furniture, clothing, pharmaceuticals, water related technology, musical instruments, cosmetics, financial and banking services, consulting services, electronic and security systems.

On the lighter side, a number of other events are also going on which include Internet presentations and live musical performances.

## Zara Investment is developing tourism in a big way

AMMAN—Zara Investment is to increase its paid up capital from JD 25 to JD 50 million.

This sudden, but necessary increase comes to meet the requirements of the company's large and promising program of hotel projects around the country, as well as to correspond to the needs of its expanding investment projects.

The Movenbeck Hotel in Petra is the first investment project of Zara, a company that

was established in 1994. The five-star hotel costs JD 13.3 million and has 185 rooms and suites. This hotel is run by the same and original Swiss administration.

Hayat Hotel will also be constructed on a distinguished land plot in Jabal Amman. This five-star hotel will be linked to one of the largest trade centers in Amman, the World Trade Center—Amman. Hayat Hotel will include 310 rooms and

suites, and a center for businessmen.

The tender for the second stage of the hotel and its utilities will be invited in the first half of next year.

Zara is in the course of completing a feasibility study of the Aqaba Hotel tourist project that is planned to be built on the southern shore of the Gulf. The company is also studying the economic feasibility of Wadi Ram tourist project.

The study is being conducted in cooperation with an international consulting company, which is involved in the region's development and in encouraging desert tourism.

Zara For Investment has bought 2 million shares of Hotel Intercontinental Jordan. This is in addition to increasing its subscription ratio in the company's total paid up capital to 27% percent.

Zara assets, in 1995 amounted to JD 36,114,984, and the shareholders' equity are put at JD 26,160,330. The company's net profits in the same year were JD 1,290,804. They were appropriated as follows: 10 percent as obligatory reserve, 20 percent as voluntary reserve, and JD 909,229 as a rotated deposit.

The total investments of Zara company amount to JD 130 million (\$180 million).

## Société Generale holds regional meeting in Amman

THE MANAGEMENT of the giant French bank Société Générale has chosen Amman as the venue of the bank's regional conference scheduled for 16-18 May at the Marriott Hotel.

This regional meeting will bring together 30 delegates representing the Bank's management in Paris, and its branches and corporate institutes in the Middle East and North Africa. Mr Jacques Bouhet, general manager of the International Division of the Bank, will preside over the conference.

Société Générale is the biggest private bank in France, and ranks 19th among the world's largest banks. The total assets of Société Générale are worth PFR 1,600 billion, and its shareholders' equity amount to PFR 511 million. In 1995, Société Générale earned PFR 3.8 billion in profit. The bank has about 300 branches and associate corporations in over 70 countries.



## ELF/Total sign deals with Iraq

● TOTAL SA and Elf Aquitaine, the French-owned oil giants have reopened their offices in Baghdad and signed agreements with the Iraqi government. They are now waiting the outcome of the oil for food talks that are currently going on in the United Nations, and an end to sanctions on Iraq.

A statement issued by the London-based democratic, the Iraqi National Congress, said that "A future democratic government in Iraq in the post-Saddam era will not honor agreements made between foreign oil companies and Saddam Hussein's regime."

"We see companies making deals with Saddam as supporters of the regime."

The INC said, "Deals with Saddam are morally indefensible and fiscally unwise. Saddam is using the greed of some oil companies as a lever to break the international isolation imposed upon his regime. These agreements will not profit those companies engaged in them; their only purpose is to maintain Saddam's power," and contacts.

"These companies and entities which are judged by a democratic government to have prolonged his dictatorship will have no place in Iraq's redevelopment," the statement added.

## US okays bill on Gaza-West Bank free trade

By Warner Rose  
USIA Staff Writer

WASHINGTON—The Senate Finance Committee has approved legislation to allow goods produced in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and "qualifying industrial zones" in Israel, Jordan and Egypt to enter the United States under provisions equal to those of the US-Israel Free Trade Agreement.

Committee action on this legislation was tied to legislation to implement an international agreement to end shipbuilding subsidies.

That agreement, negotiated in the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), was signed in December 1994 by the most important shipbuilding nations—the United States, the European Union, Japan, South Korea and Norway.

The committee also approved on 8 May the reauthorization of the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), a program that allows duty-free entry for many imports from most developing countries, retroactively to its expiration in July 1995.

The House passed a West Bank-Gaza bill in April 1996. If the Senate passes the West Bank-Gaza bill with the shipbuilding subsidy and GSP provisions added by the Senate Finance Committee, however, the bill would require at least

## Business Chronicle

### On the Jordan-Egypt free trade zone

THE JORDANIAN-Egyptian Higher Joint Committee's agreement to establish a free-trade zone between the two countries is a positive initiative that lays down a basis for deeper economic relations not only on the bilateral, but also on the multilateral levels.

In the past, many statements were issued on the establishment of the Arab common market, and several agreements were signed on mutual trade exchange and Arab economic integration. However, the results and dividends in reality were far shorter than expected. The main reason given was the political differences and approaches of the signatory countries.

In today's world, not only the well-established experience of the European economic cooperation stands a good example of the over-riding economic interests over political differences among the partners concerned, but also the formation of similar blocs in other regions is to be admired. In addition, these developments confirm that it is the economy that determines the burning issues of peace, stability and cooperation.

The Jordan-Egypt agreement to create a free trade zone between the two countries seems to have drawn good lessons from the mistakes of the past. It is planned to be gradually accomplished by the year 2005. This means that legal, technical, and necessary measures will be thoroughly, and duly discussed by them. Meanwhile, other steps and similar agreements could also be taken to incorporate other partners or even set up identical joint projects in neighboring countries.

Hence, if true intentions of economic and trade cooperation prevail on the bilateral and multi-lateral scales, then the aspirations to prosperity, sustainable development, and comprehensive peace and cooperation will certainly triumph in the region. The Jordan-Egypt free trade zone project should not be a cry in the wilderness, but a feasible and necessary undertaking that heralds the beginning of a new economic era.

### British Midland signs agreement with Air Lanka

● MAJOR EUROPEAN Airline British Midland, signed a code-share agreement with Air Lanka.

The latest signing is the third with an Asian carrier and means British Midland customers travelling from regional UK airports can seamlessly transfer at London Heathrow onto Air Lanka's service to Sri Lanka.

Under the reciprocal agreement, effective immediately, customers travelling on British Midland flights from Belfast, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Leeds Bradford and Teesside, will be able to connect at London Heathrow onto Air Lanka's service to Colombo. Connecting flights boarding passes and onward seat allocation will be issued at the point of departure. Checked, luggage will be transferred directly from British Midland to Air Lanka flights and vice-versa.

Air Lanka is the 12th major airline to sign a code-share agreement with British Midland which offers regional air passengers a greater choice of airlines when travelling to world-wide destinations.

British Midland currently operates code-share agreements with Air Canada, Alitalia, American Airlines, Austrian Airlines, United Airlines, Iberia, TAP Air Portugal, Cathay Pacific, Malaysia, Airlines, SAS, Virgin Atlantic, Air Lanka and Royal Brunei.

### Saatchi & Saatchi: No 1 advertising in region

● OFFICIAL FIGURES released by Advertising Age, the world's leading advertising industry newspaper, show that Saatchi & Saatchi Advertising is the number one billing agency in the major markets of the Middle East.

Combined 1995 billings of the Saatchi & Saatchi agencies in Saudi Arabia, UAE, Lebanon, Egypt, Jordan and Kuwait amounted last year to almost \$74 million, putting the agency ahead of BBDO, Leo Burnett and Intermarkets.

"We've always known that we were number one in creativity. After only six years in the region, it's nice to know we're also number one in billings," said Edward Jones, chairman of Saatchi & Saatchi Advertising Middle East (SSAME).

"The figures are even more impressive because in 1995 the Jordan agency was still a fledgling and the Kuwait office had not yet opened," added John McNeel, CEO of SSAME.

## MARKET WATCH

Highest and lowest performing stocks in the Amman Financial Market

| SATURDAY  | SUNDAY  | MONDAY  | TUESDAY   |
|---|---|---|---|
| ↑ Livestock & Poultry 5.17<br>↑ Arab Medical Supplies 4.81<br>↑ Jordan Rockwood Industry 4.08 | ↑ Arab Medical Supplies 2.82<br>↑ Jordan Petroleum Refinery 0.60<br>↑ Byssos 0.39                   | ↑ Philadelphia Bank 4.96<br>↑ Amman Investment Bank 4.65<br>↑ Jordan Industry Supplies 2.50 | ↑ Dar Adwa for Investment 5.05<br>↑ Universal Industry 4.98<br>↑ Amman Investment Bank 4.44 |
| ↓ Arab Paper Industry 5.19<br>↓ Business Bank 5.15<br>↓ Jordan Pipes Industry 5.02            | ↓ United Land Development 5.36<br>↓ Expatriates Investment Holding 5.45<br>↓ National Shipping 5.19 | ↓ National Cable 5.15<br>↓ Dar Adwa for Investment 5.10<br>↓ Arab Pharm. Industry 5.08      | ↓ Jordan Press Foundation 5.01<br>↓ United Investment Bank 4.82<br>↓ Nyzak Industry 3.32    |
| General Price Pointer 147,430   | 147,040   | 147,610   | 147,880   |
| Trade Volume 1497042  | 980936  | 361434  | 510281  |
| Stock Volume 1284979  | 627832  | 557176  | 413493  |
| Highest Traded Stocks   |   |   |   |
| ↑ Lead Development 863.986  | ↑ Arab Bank 192.640   | ↑ Livestock & Poultry 57.988  | ↑ Livestock & Poultry 57.988  |

All data provided by ACCESS Tel: 646868 Fax: 646949



## Bahrain troubles don't impinge on US base

By John Daniszewski  
LA Times-Washington Post News Service

MANAMA, Bahrain—Just outside the US 5th Fleet headquarters in this Gulf oil emirate, teenagers throwing rocks recently clashed with police armed with tear gas and rubber bullets. The disturbances and police roundups lasted for days. But throughout it all, not one brick was hurled in the direction of the American base.

That is among the incongruities in this small but strategic country. It has been shaken by 17 months of anti-government protests led by militant Islamic clerics. But during the tumult, the large US military presence that helps support the government has rarely rated a mention by dissidents.

"As long as they do nothing to me, I have nothing against them," said Ibrahim, 15, a Shiite Muslim who took part in the battles with police next to the 5th Fleet administrative headquarters. The Navy personnel who jog by on the narrow streets of his poor neighborhood do not provoke even mild resentment, he said, noting: "Anybody is welcome in our land, as long as the government agrees to the demands of the people."

Will that always be true? US officials are increasingly worried about Bahrain's growing problems. Stability and cooperation in the gulf are top US strategic goals—to ensure a steady supply of fuel to the West—and Bahrain more and more looks like a crumbling house in a tough neighborhood.

One of America's strongest allies in the region, this country of barely 500,000 people has been the scene of steadily escalating violence since December 1994, pitting the Sunni Muslim-led government against members of the Shiite community. Shiites make up 70 percent of the population and are demanding greater democracy and the restoration of the parliament dissolved by the emir in 1975.

The fight has spiraled into bombings and fatal arson on one side and mass arrests and alleged torture on the other—all over an island group no larger than metropolitan Washington, D.C., that is fast running out of the oil that underpins its economy.

That reality is the heart of the problem: Bahrain is the first gulf producer to be exhausting its oil supply. Its output of 42,000 barrels a day is a fraction of a percent of the world's production. But by 2020, if projections hold, its supply will be depleted.

Like other gulf states, Bahrain is desperate to diversify economically. Already it hosts a string of international banks whose gleaming offices line the waterfront; it has become a major aluminum smelter; it has developed a small but significant ship repair industry. It is experimenting with tourism, building posh beach resorts aimed at wealthy Arabs and Europeans.

But can Bahrain shift to a post-petroleum economy while coping with what amounts to a popular insurrection?

Clashes with police occur almost nightly. And a rash of bombings has targeted hotels, restaurants and other sites across Bahrain since last July.

In the worst such incident, seven Bangladeshi guest workers died in the firebombing of a restaurant just outside Manama in March, raising the death toll from the unrest since 1994 to at least 28.

Opposition leader Sheikh Abdul Amir Jamri has been imprisoned since January. Houses and fences across Bahrain are covered with graffiti demanding his release.

So far, the planted bombs have been primitive and placed for psychological effect more than harm. "The idea is to tell the government, 'We could close this country down if we wanted,'" according to one diplomat.

The US Embassy has warned Americans to exercise caution when moving about Bahrain, and several foreign banks have been shifting operations to the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain's principal economic rival.

The government of Sheikh Isa bin Salman Khalifa, the emir, would like to portray the uprising as the thin edge of an Iranian wedge that wants to extend Ayatollah Khomeini-style fundamentalism to the oil states of the gulf. While it is true that Shiite religious leaders at the forefront of the protests are trained in the Iranian holy city of Qom, most diplomats and political analysts regard Bahrain's unrest as a home-grown affair.

## 'We cried for all of the dead children'

By Robert Fisk

LIEUTENANT COLONEL Wame Waqanivalagi sat in the front of the television of his smashed officers' mess yesterday afternoon and watched his own headquarters being shelled by the Israelis. As the artillery rounds howled down on the Fijian battalion headquarters at Qana—who has spent eight years on United Nations service in southern Lebanon—pointed at the smoke that filled the screen.

"In there, Robert, was an awful place to be," he said. And he shook his head. "The Israeli margin of error was too big to say this was an error. There were two Israeli helicopters observing the shelling in this headquarters—they were observing as shells landed here."

The videotape, which forms the centerpiece of the UN investigation into the attack on Qana—a copy of the film was obtained by the Independent—showed an Israeli pilotless reconnaissance drone, used for artillery spotting, flying low over Qana at the height of the Israeli bombardment. The Israelis said it was on "another mission" but Colonel Waqanivalagi was unimpressed.

"I wouldn't know about another mission," he said pointedly. "All I know is that I was shelled. My men saw these Israeli drone planes from their observation post. They saw one before the massacre. We know the Israelis are very good at artillery shooting. Much of the time when the Israelis have shot in this area, we would look around in the camp. That's why there was no air of expectancy in the camp before the attack."

The colonel was in his command center when the first Israeli artillery round hit the UN base—there were 12 in all—landed near the Fijian UN battalion's outdoor refrigerator on 18 April. "It was chaos," he said. "Everyone was crying. People were being killed. Bodies were flying in the air. At one point there was a big explosion and I looked up and saw a whole house had gone. I saw two of my soldiers carrying bodies in blankets with hands hanging out. People were shouting 'casualties' and 'four soldiers severely injured'."

The colonel raised his hands. "When it was over, I just couldn't believe it—that we could be shelled in our own tactical headquarters. I was astonished. I stood there helpless. I couldn't do anything to stop the whole thing."

But like many of the 150 Fijian soldiers at the Qana base, the colonel has children—two-year-old Lailani, Loma, six, and an eight-year-old boy called Sakiesha—and it was their faces which confronted him when the Israeli shells had killed the last of the 120 or more refugees.

"There were so many dead children and when I saw the bodies, my own children were right in front of me," The colonel put his hand in front of his face, the fingers towards him. "They were there, like that, so close to me. If they had told me there was going to be a massacre, I wouldn't have come to Lebanon. It is one of the saddest, most deplorable things that any human being can be killed under our security."

Most of the 560 refugees in the camp—another 300 ran into the UN base just before the shelling and after they had heard the Hizbollah mortar fire 350 meters away—had been living among the Fijians for eight days and some of the soldiers had become close friends with the Lebanese civilians, especially the children.

"We had been living with these people for more than a week," the colonel said. "Every night, our soldiers would hold the babies and rock them to sleep for their mothers. My men

gave up their beds, their rooms, their food for these people. They taught us to make the Lebanese kibbi food and when we held our Christian service every evening they would all be very quiet and many of the Muslims would come and stand near us and watch us in silence as we prayed."

"It was a relationship with the Lebanese people that we hadn't had in the 18 years our battalions have been here. And then we saw them killed. We were starting to learn each other's culture. And suddenly, everything went away."

The colonel admits that he and most of this men wept in the minutes that followed the end of the attack. "We all cried. We had known them so well—some of my men were very affected. They knew the kids and they had to pick up pieces of them. They had held the babies and they had to pick them up in bits. It's just too horrible to describe."

At the weekend, a UN team from New York arrived to provide psychological help for the soldiers, some of whom had slept in groups on the floors in the night that followed, unable to sleep, jumping at the slightest sound—a car braking or a spoon dropping from a table. Several were recommended immediate home leave.

Colonel Waqanivalagi did observe several Hizbollah men arrive at the compound after—



out before—the shelling. They were, he said, the men who fired the mortars at which the Israelis claimed they were firing.

people who died were civilians. They became our friends. Who cannot see this as much witness testimony as they could and to put the pieces together into this puzzle which was very, very difficult."

"They came in to look for their families who were here. And one of them found that all his family had been killed. He was hysterical. He kept shouting 'these are my people'. But the

The Independent

## UN Qana massacre report receives hammering from all sides

NEW YORK—Sylvana Foa, spokeswoman for UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros Ghali, said that "the fact that neither side is happy with this report can only prove its objectivity."

We must be doing something right. The van Kappen report has sparked some very emotional responses. There are those who seek to discredit not only the report, but it's authors, the Secretary-General and the United Nations itself. Let's be very clear. The report fulfills an essential obligation of this Organization to investigate an incident in which peacekeepers were injured and more than 100 civilians killed inside a United Nations compound. We owe that investigation to the troop-contributing nations as well as to ourselves. The intent of the report was not to embarrass or accuse any Member State. We didn't go out there to point fingers. We went out there to establish the facts so that steps can be taken to see that an incident like this will not happen again. The report is balanced and objective. The facts speak for themselves. It is difficult to understand the strong reactions to this report in some quarters."

"Some critics are questioning even the credentials of the investigative team itself," she continued. "Let's go through them. Major-General van Kappen has been a Marine for 35 years of experience in the Royal Engineers. The team also included an artillery expert and an ordinance expert in the field, and two artillery experts at the United Nations Headquarters who were on our staff. In addition to those people, the advice of independent outside experts was also elicited. The whole report was reviewed line-by-line by the Assistant Secretary-General to Peacekeeping, General Manfred Eisele, who has been an artillery specialist for 50 years. It was interesting that all of the experts involved in this report came to the

same conclusion from their analysis of the data," Ms Foa said.

Asked whether it was not rather courageous of the Secretary-General to issue that report given that the Americans were considering whether they wanted him back, Ms Foa responded that it would be a very sad day if a Secretary-General suppressed the facts of an important investigation just because a Member State threatened to deny him a second term. "About 99 percent of the people on this earth believe the job of the Secretary-General is to serve as the moral conscience, the moral voice. He can't be seen to be bowing to political pressure when questions of this weight are involved or it would undermine the public confidence in the institution of the United Nations as a whole."

Asked if the Secretary-General had been threatened by the Americans, Ms Foa responded, "No."

A correspondent asked if it was true that the United States Permanent Representative, Madeleine Albright, or her staff had called the Secretary-General to bitterly denounce Major-General van Kappen and the report Ms Foa said no.

The correspondent said that Lebanon wanted action in the Security Council to condemn Israel, and asked if the Secretary-General or his top aides felt that such action would hurt the peace process. Ms Foa said that this was totally up to the Council.

Referring to the van Kappen report, a correspondent asked why a policy decision had been taken to come out fighting. Ms Foa said that it wasn't a policy decision. "I have been provoked in the last 24 hours by questions of people who say to me, 'These people who wrote this report don't know what they are talking about. They didn't look at the evidence'. There has been

quite a bit of provoking on his report. I think the report is extremely balanced, extremely objective and I think that we ought to be very grateful to the people who risked their lives there to get as much witness testimony as they could and to put the pieces together into this puzzle which was very, very difficult."

The correspondent recalled that the Spokesman had said at the beginning of the briefing that the Permanent Representatives of Lebanon, Bahrain and Egypt were going to see the Secretary-General and that they were also upset about the report. Ms Foa said, "We've seen the reports from Lebanon saying that they feel that the report belittled the incident. There were people obviously who wanted something much stronger."

Asked what the United Nations meant by saying that it wanted to make sure that that never happened again, the spokeswoman said that she had asked Joachim Hutter, Director, Asia and Middle East Division, Department of Peacekeeping Operations, to give some kind of a briefing on that. There were new procedures being worked out at the moment. "We are going to try them out with the Israeli commanders on how we can make sure that this doesn't happen, how we communicate. There will be a whole list of new procedures worked out."

A correspondent asked whether there was a feeling at the United Nations that it was best if the issue between Israel and the United Nations got on with re-establishing relations with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). Ms Foa responded, "What we'll like to see is for the cease-fire to take hold. For the fighting to stop, and for the peace process to get on as fast as possible. We want to put this whole thing to bed now..."

## Lebanon operation drives wedge between Peres, Arab Israelis

It is Labor, not Likud, that stands to lose the most in the Arab sector, since this vote traditionally has helped Labor.

By Marjorie Miller  
LA Times-Washington Post News Service

JAFFA, Israel—When Nadia Hilou opted to run for parliament on the governing Labor Party ticket, it seemed that the Arab educator's campaign among Palestinians in Israel would be as easy as the warm breeze wafting in here from the Mediterranean.

Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres was seen as "Mr. Peace" by most of the 800,000 or so Arab citizens of Israel. He was an architect of the Israeli-Palestinian peace accord who would end, once and for all, the painful conflict between their people and their state.

After the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin by a radical Jew opposed to the peace process, pollsters were predicting that Arabs would turn out to vote in unprecedented numbers and that 90 percent of them would cast ballots for Peres.

Then Mr. Peace made war. Israel's two-week "Operation Grapes of Wrath," aimed at Shiite Muslim guerrillas in Lebanon, has driven a wedge between Peres and Arab Israelis. The killing of about 150 Lebanese Arabs, most of them civilians at a UN refugee camp in Qana, has caused Labor support in the Arab sector to plummet. And it has raised an uncomfortable hurdle for Hilou, Labor's highest-profile Arab candidate and the only Arab woman running for the Israeli legislature, the Knesset.

"We are passing through a hard period. What happened at Qana was a tragedy that hurt the Arabs. I was hurt. I am

sorry for the women and children victims," she said in an interview. "But Peres was the man of peace, and he continues to be. A decision should not be made on one act."

"We have three weeks until the election and I am very confident in the Arabs from all parties to distinguish between their feelings and their reason. Their heads will tell them to vote for Peres."

Hilou may be overconfident. Polls since the military offensive show that only 47 percent to 52 percent of Arab voters support Peres in the first direct election for an Israeli prime minister. Many Palestinians say they will cast blank ballots in the tight race between Peres and right-wing Likud Party leader Benjamin Netanyahu.

Arabs in Israel say they are angry not only over Lebanon but over the Israeli closure of Palestinian-ruled territory in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Peres imposed the closure for security reasons after a spate of suicide bombings in Israel by the militant Islamic group Hamas began 25 February, killing more than 60 people. Arabs inside and outside Israel, however, consider it unfair collective punishment.

"We always gave Peres our support, and now he is stepping on the Arabs," said Mohammed Abdel Fattah, 45, a restaurateur who has voted Labor previously. "I will vote with a blank paper. What Peres is doing now is taking the same measures that Likud took in the past, so it doesn't matter who is in power."

Spotting an opening, Likud's Netanyahu has been wooing voters with visits to Arab

towns such as Taiyiba, where he spent the recent Muslim Feast of the Sacrifice, to put forth his new position on the peace accord—that whatever has been done already is done and that he will not send Israeli troops to reoccupy Palestinian towns in the West Bank and Gaza.

Netanyahu now also says he would be willing to talk to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, even though his campaign ads portray Arafat as untrustworthy.

Arafat has made no secret of his desire to see Peres remain in the office the prime minister inherited from Rabin. The Palestinian Authority president went so far as to persuade the leadership of his Palestine Liberation Organization to annul its decades-old call for the destruction of Israel—in the midst of the closure and the Lebanon operation.

Moshe Arens, who heads the Likud campaign in the Arab sector, insists that Arafat's open support for Peres is no obstacle for Netanyahu.

"There are many Israeli Arabs who don't admire Arafat. The Arab population in Israel has gotten used to democracy, and I don't believe that Arafat's regime appeals to them," he said.

Arens said Likud's argument to the Israeli Arabs is: "The best way to make peace is to make sure that Israel is strong." He says Likud is a champion of equal rights for Arabs.

Labor challenges the sincerity of Likud's campaign to win over Arabs, pointing out that Likud leaders branded parliamentary approval of the peace accord "illegitimate" because it

depended on Arab votes. Likud members have argued that Arabs should not be allowed to vote on fundamental questions of sovereignty, borders and Jewish issues.

"Netanyahu and the Likud acted systematically to delegitimize the Arab vote in the Knesset," said Hagai Moron, a Labor member of parliament. "One who objects to having Arabs in the Knesset cannot tell them today how much he wants equality for them."

Labor leaders hasten to note that the one candidate on the Likud ticket representing the Arab Druze sect was dropped after Likud made an alliance with two right-wing parties, Tsomet and Geshet, and cut deals over seats.

But it is Labor, not Likud, that stands to lose the most in the Arab sector, since this vote traditionally has helped Labor. Hilou is doing her best to ensure it will again. The daughter of a large Christian family from Jaffa with four girls of her own, Hilou, 42, moves through her hometown in a swirl of activity, shouting hellos left and right with a reporter by her side and a German television crew trailing behind.

She carries a briefcase in one hand and a cellular telephone in the other, answering questions in a jumble of Hebrew and Arabic. She was elected No. 37 on Labor's list of parliamentary candidates in the party primaries, meaning she is virtually guaranteed one of the Knesset's 120 seats.

Hilou is trying to rally the 440,000 eligible Arab voters with her use-your-head argument. She tells constituents that to abstain from voting is to

abdicate a civil right for which Arabs in Israel have fought hard. To cast a blank ballot is to indirectly support Netanyahu, she says. And she stresses the distinction between the peace process and equality for Arabs in Israel.

About 150,000 Arabs remained in Israel after the founding of the Jewish state in 1948, while most others fled or were forced out. Today the Arabs represent about 15 percent in 20 percent of the population of Israel, and slightly less of the eligible voters.

They have long been caught between Palestinians who dislike their ties to the Jewish state and Jews who distrust their family ties to Israel's old enemies.

Many political activists argue that only peace can eliminate the perception of Arab Israelis as a fifth column in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Only with peace, they say, can Palestinians put aside the struggle of their brethren in the West Bank and Gaza and focus on their problems at home.

As director of Jaffa's Hirsch Center, which provides health, education and welfare services to Jewish and Arab children, Hilou is familiar with many of those problems.

"Arab people in Israel have social problems, daily problems of education, housing, problems with their children and with academic work and the economy. In this field, I can try to help," she said. But, she added, the government has to help too by taking steps to win back the Arab vote.

## TV ads target the undecided as Israel's election nears

By Marjorie Miller  
LA Times-Washington Post News Service

JERUSALEM—Their names will not appear on the ballot, of course, but the opening television advertisements in Israel's national election campaign pit slain Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin against Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

Or, as some Israelis have suggested, tears against fears.

The governing Labor party used just enough footage of Rabin to recall the national outpouring of love and sadness over his assassination last year, but not so much that the martyred peacemaker overshadows his partner and successor, Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

The message: Peres is continuing the peace process that Rabin began. You trusted us then, trust us now.

The opposition Likud party, on the other hand, showed Peres with his other partner in peace—Arafat, the man in fatigues and a checkered keffiyeh whom most Likud supporters still basically regard as a terrorist.

"Peres and Arafat, a dangerous combination for Israel," says the narrator over a picture of the two.

Likud candidate Benjamin Netanyahu, poised in a somber room that looks a lot like the Oval Office, says, "I know that many of you live in fear—fear of boarding a bus, fear of sending the children to school. There is a sense that the next attack is on the way. It's only a matter of time."

Under a peculiar Israeli law, pictures and voices of the candidates may not be broadcast in the final three weeks before an election, except in paid ads. The ads, which begin the day news coverage stops, are grouped together in a single, evening slot with allotted time

for each of Israel's myriad political parties. And many Israelis actually sit down to watch them—about 30 percent to 40 percent of the country.

For the first time, Israelis will cast two ballots in the 29 May election, a direct vote for prime minister and another for the party they want to represent them in parliament. In the prime minister race, polls show the only two candidates, Peres and Netanyahu, in almost a dead heat, with a small percentage of voters still to make up their minds.

There is basically only one issue in this election: Which of the two candidates for prime minister offers a better blueprint for making peace with security. Labor's slogan—"The nation is strong with Peres." Likud's—"Making a secure peace."

The TV ads are aimed at the 150,000 or so undecided voters. Peres apparently believes most of those are young people. His MTV-style spots show him surrounded by Israeli youths who are singing, waving flags, showing him with kisses, listening intently, then applauding his vision of peacemaking.

"We used to be surrounded by five enemies. We have peace now with three. There are two left, Syria and Lebanon, and we will make peace with them, too. I believe that in the next four years it is possible to achieve comprehensive peace in the Middle East. We have a lot of work ahead of us, but I want you to enter the 21st century prepared. Educated, and free of wars," Peres says in one segment.

Netanyahu responds that the great state of Israel has everything but true peace and security. "Mr. Peres tried in his own way to bring peace. He entrusted our security in the hands of Arafat and you have all seen the results—an unprecedented deterioration in the per-



Netanyahu: A strong challenger

sonal security of every single citizen," he says.

Another ad for Likud, and its allies in the small Tsomet and Geshet parties, shows the remains of a Hamas suicide bomber with the words "no peace," a car hit by Katyusha rockets fired from Hezbollah guerrillas with the words "no security" and underneath, "no reason to vote for Peres."

Netanyahu's ads show a series of Israelis who say they voted for Rabin and Labor last time but are disappointed and now will vote Likud. Labor responds with an ad showing Netanyahu as a Russian toy—a "matryoshka" doll—zig-zagging in his position on peace issues. Each time he changes his mind, a hand takes out a smaller and smaller one of the stacking wooden figures until only a tiny Netanyahu is left standing. Referring to the candidate by his diminutive nickname, the narrator says, "Israel is too big for you, B.B." The campaign has been relatively mild by Israeli standards, but political observers say there are more than two weeks to go. The ads will continue nightly and still could get down-and-dirty by election day.



# Lenin still exalted by many Russians

*Lenin's legacy remains deeply rooted in the Communists' agenda and statements, but in his party's latest election program, Zyuganov does not mention Lenin's name*

By David Hoffman  
LA Times-Washington Post  
News Service

MOSCOW—They wound their way through the granite tomb, down the long stairs, past the watchful uniformed guards, into the high-ceilinged vault, around the glass sarcophagus where Vladimir Ilyich Lenin lies embalmed, and then back up the stairs into the open square of Red Square on a bright spring day.

Pausing with her small tour group outside the tomb, Larissa Zakharova could not say precisely what it meant to visit Lenin's Mausoleum, once a shrine, now a symbol of a bygone era, another tourist stop to the shadow of history.

"We have been brought up on Lenin's ideas," said Zakharova, a musician, explaining why she brought her son Maxim, 10, on a school-holiday excursion to see the founder of the Soviet Union. "When I was a little girl, I came here, and I want to keep up the tradition."

Yet Zakharova, in stylish coat and scarf, said she did not want to go back to the Soviet era. "One thing I didn't like," she said firmly. "All the people had to think the same ideas. I want to be different."

Her comments reflect the ambivalence of many Russians toward both their troubled history and their uncertain future as the presidential campaign gains momentum.

Front and center in this campaign are the resurgent Communists. The Communist Party leader, Gennady Zyuganov, leads in opinion polls for president; the Communist faction is the largest in the lower house of parliament, which recently cast a symbolic vote sponsored by Communists to reconstitute the Soviet Union. In many ways, the Russian election campaign already hinges on a simple, polarized choice between the Communists and President Boris Yeltsin.

But there are many signs that Russian voters, while they might bring Communists back to power, are not interested in bringing communism back. They may yearn for the perceived tranquility of the old days, for the remembered certainties of daily life, for subsidies, free health care and education, but for the most part they are not demanding resurrection of the old ideology.

If anything, Russians seem to fear a return to the old system, and this fear is the major underlying theme of Yeltsin's campaign for re-election. "Russia will not survive another 1917," he said recently.

In fact, although the Soviet Union and the ideology of a "bright future" under communism have collapsed, the old order has yet to be replaced by anything new. According to pollsters and sociologists, that has left many voters adrift, unsure of what the past meant, or the future holds.

Like a noisy and bewildering bazaar, the Russian political landscape is littered with competing ideologies. Michael McPaul, a Stanford University professor, said recently that out of this confusion, last year's election showed that Russia is beginning to coalesce around two broad, competing ideas—for reform and against it. How voters make this choice may well decide the election, and Russia's future.

Lenin's Mausoleum was once the pre-eminent Soviet shrine. According to the late historian Dmitri Volkogonov, after Lenin's death in 1924 the idea of mummifying his body came about because Joseph Stalin recognized the enormous symbolic value of keeping it on display.

Volkogonov wrote in his critical 1994 biography of Lenin that creating the tomb was "the first decisive step toward turning Lenin's ideas into a secular religion."

The mausoleum was rehoused in granite in 1933, and millions of dollars were spent on preserving Lenin's relics. His brain was carved into 3,963 sections preserved in wax for study by a special laboratory of scientists who wanted to show that his mind was extraordinary. Millions of Soviet citizens and school children made the pilgrimage to his mausoleum.

"An entire mechanism was put in place to manage Lenin's embalmed body, which had become vitally necessary for its effect on the psychology of the masses," Volkogonov said. "For the Bolsheviks, it was one means of personifying the immortality of Lenin's precepts, although on the eve of the 21st century, rather than serving as a testimony of the man's greatness, it is instead a reminder of the depth of the country's historic failure."

Yeltsin, a former Communist Party regional boss who played a key role in destroying Lenin's state, at one point considered burying Lenin. But Lenin has had an exalted place in the Russian consciousness; polls show him regarded as greater than all the leaders of the Soviet Union and Russia who came after him. Yeltsin removed the goose-stepping guards in front of the tomb but has left Lenin on exhibit.

Russians still line up to visit the tomb, although fewer than in earlier times. They no longer come out of awe, but because Lenin was a part of their history.

"You can't take things away from history," Zakharova said. "I tell my children I was in the Young Communist League, the Komsomol. I was a Pioneer and went to children's Pioneer camps. We had a happy childhood. You know, you see great things only from a distance."

"The mausoleum is a symbol of the lost order, of yearning for former times of stability," said Vladimir Lapkin, deputy head of the analytical center at the Public Opinion Foundation. In surveys, he said, few Russians say they respect



Lenin as a statesman, but a third of the population still thinks it wrong to criticize him.

"The modern times overthrew the old ideological convictions, without offering anything new in return," he said.

What people want, Lapkin said, is "no fundamental changes" in their lives, no further "destabilization" of society. "Our conclusion is that the dominating motif in people's sentiments in Russia now is striving for stability. There is a nostalgia, but it is a nostalgia for stability."

In many studies, we've found that people feel they have nothing ideological in their lives," said Masha Volkstein, president of Validata, a public opinion research firm. "They don't know what society lives for. They feel there is a lack, an empty place. They are used to this feeling that society should live for some kind of goal, and society should have something to believe in. They have nothing."

Even Zyuganov, sensing the mood, has been trying to cast himself as a social democrat and nationalist, rather than an orthodox Communist, which he was. Lenin's legacy remains deeply rooted in the Communists' agenda and statements, but in his party's latest election program, Zyuganov does not mention Lenin's name.

## India's Congress Party pledges anti-nationalist coalition

By John-Thor Dahlburg  
LA Times-Washington Post  
News Service

NEW DELHI, India—Caretaker Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao reasserted his leadership last Sunday as his Congress (I) Party, rocked by election defeat, pledged to join with other nonreligious parties in an effort to bar Hindu nationalists from forming India's next government.

"All our forces would be guided by one principle... that is to keep communal forces out of power," said External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee, a powerful Congress leader and Rao ally.

In the evening, Congress members from both chambers of India's legislature thumped their desks as they unanimously re-elected the 74-year-old Rao their leader in Parliament.

It was an ostentatious display of unity by a political machine that had just suffered its worst-ever defeat in national elections after leading India for a total of more than 44 years.

Some party members have blamed Rao's brand of leadership—a mixture of blandness and skillful, behind-the-scenes intrigue—for the debacle. But at a meeting earlier last Sunday of the powerful Congress Working Committee, party officials said, there were no objections raised to Rao continuing as party president.

The issue, however, may rebound later this week. The committee have met again last Wednesday and the possibility of separating the premiership and the party presidency did arise.

The United News of India said Rao agreed at the committee's closed-door meeting to let the issue—tantamount to a reduction in his power—be discussed and that his assent softened the opposition of

some committee members to his re-election as party president.

In a statement, the committee accepted the verdict of the voters "with humility" but said a government including the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party, the biggest winner in the national parliamentary elections, would be "a threat to the secular foundations of the Indian Republic."

Mukherjee said Congress leaders have not yet decided whether to join with the National Front-Left Front—a loose coalition of secular, leftist and Communist parties—in trying to form a non-BJP government or merely to support the other parties during votes in Parliament. "The option is open," Mukherjee said.

With almost all the ballots counted in the national vote, the arithmetic shifted to make Congress support indispensable if the National Front-Left Front is to come to power. The BJP and its allies had collected 181 seats in the 545-member Parliament.

BJP gains in Bihar state helped cut the National Front-Left Front total to 108, fewer than originally projected. Congress has won 137 seats.

The National Front-Left Front, hostile to the Congress party during the election campaign, quickly toned down its rhetoric in the face of the BJP's triumph. As recently as last Friday, its leaders demanded that Rao be replaced as Congress president as a precondition to forming an anti-BJP alliance, but many were moving away from that demand over the weekend.

Rao resigned last Friday after serving as prime minister for nearly five years, a period during which he shifted gears in the Indian economy and implemented many market-driven reforms. President Shankar Dayal Sharma asked Rao to stay on as caretaker until a new government can be formed.

## Censors' sword is mightier than Arab cartoonists' pen

By Shyam Bhatia

CARTOONIST BAHAA AL Boukhari still glances over his shoulder as he leaves home every morning to drive to his office at the *Al Quds* newspaper, in Arab East Jerusalem. Boukhari, 52, a Palestinian, is aware that he overstepped the mark when he dared to ridicule all-powerful Palestinian police chief Brigadier Ghazi Jabbali. Jabbali, who reports directly to Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, has learned to "respect" the influence of the media. He understands the power of the written word and, more recently, has also started to "appreciate" the value of political cartoons.

Yet Jabbali is himself a caricature of the paranoid Arab government official who cannot tolerate dissent and must punish those who dare to think independently. He so enjoys giving orders to his subordinates that he sometimes gets carried away and issues instructions to Palestinian journalists.

Last year he banned the distribution of Palestinian newspapers because they refused to publish his version of an opposition rally to Gaza. Foreign news agencies had reported that 30,000 people attended the gathering organized by Hamas, the Islamic resistance movement. Jabbali's office telephoned Palestinian editors

to tell them that the real figure was less than 5,000.

When his numbers were ignored in favor of the agencies' estimates, Jabbali confiscated tens of thousands of copies of the offending newspapers.

For three days no Palestinian editor dared to react. The only man to carry the flag of protest was Boukhari. His cartoon, published in *Al Quds*, the largest Palestinian newspaper, depicts a desk-bound Jabbali as a raging tyrant, the title on his desk reads "Ruler by Order of God." On a bookshelf behind him are a pair of scissors and handcuffs.

When the cartoon was brought to Jabbali's attention,

he let it be known that he would retaliate at a time of his choosing. "They said he was very upset and not to approach him," said Boukhari. "I even heard he sent people to look for me, but I don't care."

Despite the bravado, Boukhari knows he is playing with fire. Cartoons have been part of the Arab political landscape for decades, but the absence of democracy in the Arab world means that those who practice their art must walk a tightrope. Some lose their balance and have paid with their lives. The most renowned victim was London-based Palestinian cartoonist Najji Ali, believed to have been killed in 1982 was the brutality of

the Israeli occupation and the daily sufferings of the Palestinians.

When Israeli jets bombed Lebanon during Operation Grapes of Wrath, Arab cartoonists fired back with anti-Semitic salvos. Long-nosed Jewish characters were depicted as bloodthirsty human vampires trampling on the bodies of innocent children. At the same time the cartoons poured scorn on the inability of their fellow Arabs to come to the rescue of thousands of innocent Lebanese civilians.

Hundreds of Palestinian cartoons never saw the light of day after the Israeli censor banned them "for security reasons." Boukhari claims that at least 20 per cent of his creations are still rejected.

For 16 years the American-trained Boukhari's cartoons appeared in leading Kuwaiti newspapers. But his relations with Kuwait's fabulously wealthy oil sheikhs deteriorated when he began targeting Egypt's President Anwar Sadat. "When they asked me to stop drawing Sadat, I created a new character, Abu Arab, and put him in Arab dress. He could be any Arab leader."

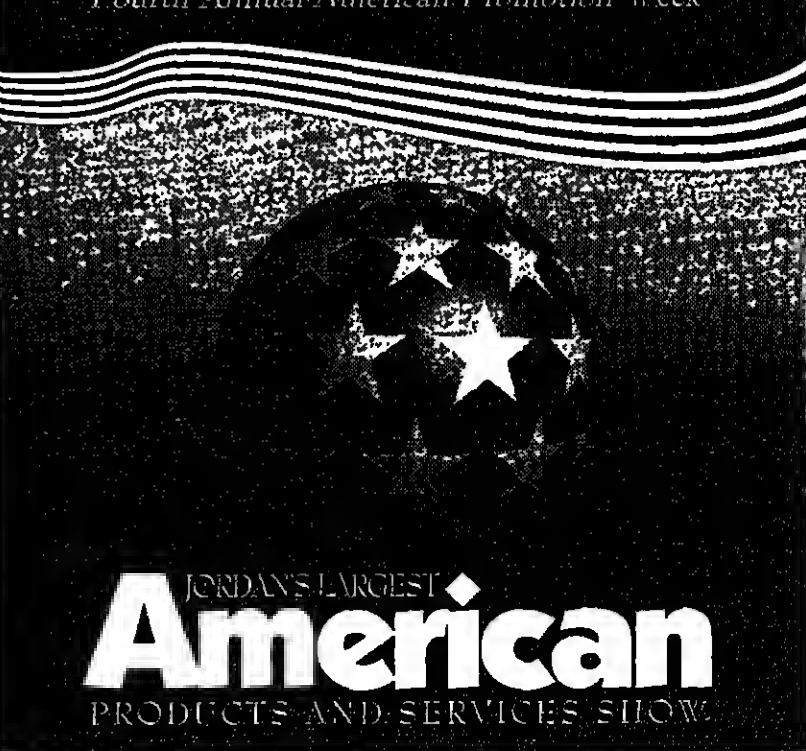
Many Arab cartoonists have been forced to leave their countries and work from exile in the West. London and Paris are favorite alternatives to Beirut, Damascus, Baghdad and other Arab capitals.

"Cartoonists are oppressed in the Arab world," explains the celebrated Lebanese cartoonist, Mahmoud Kahil. "Some times we have to be ambiguous to avoid the censorship and other dangers. No one deserves to die because of a cartoon or an article. What happened to the late Najji Ali was a catastrophe for liberty and Arab cartoonists."



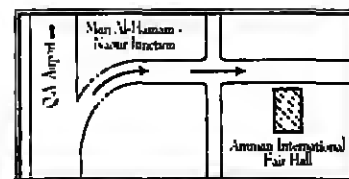
Just one of the many satirical cartoons of Boukhari on the new Palestinian political system

THE AMERICAN EMBASSY  
Economic/Commercial Section is pleased to invite you to the  
Fourth Annual American Promotion Week



Amman International Fair Hall - Marj Al-Hamam May 12-17 1996  
The show will be open to the public on May 13-17 10:00a.m. - 11:00 p.m.

American  
FOURTH ANNUAL AMERICAN PROMOTION WEEK



Live Music entertainment: May 12-17, Music Variation from 6:00-8:00pm and Flamenco from 8:00-10:00pm  
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### Running for charity

● The British Embassy Runners wearing "It's mad not to eat beef" T-shirts ran in the Dead Sea Ultra Marathon. Sponsored by the Forte Grand Amman, sales of the special edition T-shirt were donated to the Society for Care of Neurological Patients



## Picasso in Jordan

by Eyad Ammari  
Special to the Star

Under the patronage of Their Majesties Queen Noor and Queen Sofia, an exhibition titled "From Picasso To Our Present Days" was opened on Monday, 13 May at Darat Al-Funun. The exhibition presents works from the collection of Museo del Grabado Español Contemporáneo-Marbella in Spain.

On display are works by great artists like Pablo Picasso, Joan Miro and Salvador Dali. All the works displayed are print works mostly from lithographs. The exhibition shows the importance of the printing works in contemporary art. This method was considered secondary at the beginning of the century.

Picasso is considered one of the pillars of modern art. He experimented with almost all forms of art as he went from one kind to another. He kept producing new forms as well as trying to work with everybody else's ideas.

Dali is considered the master of Surrealism, although Rene Magritte was also one of those who produced a lot of striking images. Yet, what distinguishes Dali from

Magritte is that the former's images are wholly surrealistic while the latter would introduce a spin on the reality in a wholly realistic scene.

Miro is a master of a certain abstract approach where symbols and marks are not there for any necessary meaning as much as they are for the composition of the plates.

The rest of the works are by no means less striking. A lithograph by Jose Caballero is an icon of contemporary Spanish abstractionism and symbolism.

The exhibition is on till 6 June. A series of films on the major artists whose works appear started on Tuesday, 14 May and will last till 30 May. A seminar on Spanish art and artists will be held on Monday, 20 May and a musical evening of Spanish music will be held on Tuesday, 28 May.

On Wednesday, 8 May, an exhibition of recent works by the Egyptian artist Ayyad Al Nimr was opened at Darat Al-Funun. On display are abstract works made in Jordan in 1996 while the artist was visiting. He lives in California.

The Star talked to the Al Nimr asking him about the shift from his earlier works in figurative art to the current abstract art. "Abstract is a way of thinking," he answered. "My first works in abstract were either color intensive or in black and white. I don't think there's only one way to define myself. I like to define new solutions." The artist believes that a painting cannot be compromised for the sake of composition alone. He prefers to use the colors to any way he sees it fit "just to order to shock the viewer."

Al Nimr is very bold with his use of colors. He also likes to divide his paintings with stripes, either of color or of a different media making the painting more like a collage. "I like to strengthen

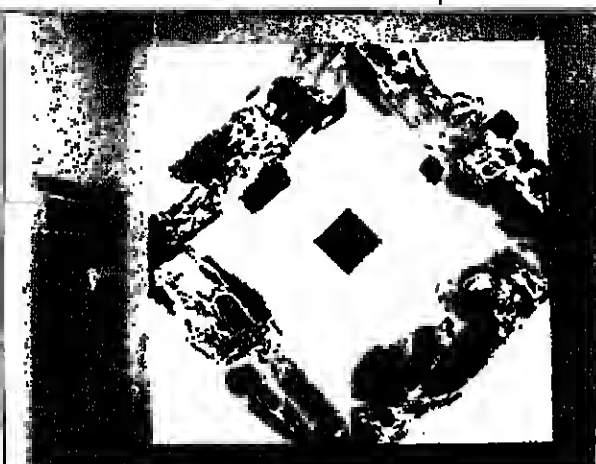


Cabellero: Retrato de Federico Garcia Lorca

the colors sometimes, and when I draw objects or divide things with lines. I feel like I'm importing objects from nature." He also refrains from mixing colors. "Other artists used to tell me 'why don't you mix colors, can't you?' And I would say, 'using pure colors is like confronting reality with an abstract emotion. The colors are pure and real but their display is not.'" Al Nimr's exhibitions last till 12 June.

On Sunday, 12 May, an exhibition of the Egyptian artist Bahjat was opened at Rewaq Al-Balqa. The works on display are children's illustrations and collages in a series titled Towards an After Tomorrow (Children's Rights Protocol).

The illustrations were sold to the UNICEF through their offices in Lebanon. "I didn't want to print them and sell them," Bahjat told The Star. "They would have ended up with the wrong people. The illustrations are targeted to those who cannot afford buying prints." The works are very pleasant and some are funny. They are made for children but are very interesting for adults too. The exhibition lasts till Sunday, 19 May. ■



Al Nimr: A Four Piece Construction

### National Music Conservatory

## A musical extravaganza

by Eyad Ammari  
Special to the Star

This piece comes to express the deep feelings we have for the people of the Middle East, said Dr. Clyn Barus, the conductor of the visiting Brigham Young Chamber Orchestra which performed on Sunday, 12 May, giving one of the most mercurial events this year.

Dr. Barus was referring to *Adagio for Strings*, a piece written by the American composer Samuel Barber. The orchestra performed six pieces, four of which are from the European heritage of classical music and two American modern compositions.

The 45 members which are on tour now visiting the West Bank, Israel, Jordan and Egypt played six pieces and returned for a seventh after the audience continued applauding and refused to leave the main hall at the Royal Cultural Center.

Brigham Young's conductor was performing without a score throughout the concert except for one piece. His reliance on

percussive instruments is little as only piece had any noticeable drumming. He also depends on his viola's for base more than other conductors we have seen in Jordan since he had only one double bass.

The orchestra started with Mozart's Overture to *The Magic Flute* which is one of the composer's later works and expresses the "level of beauty he reached with his compositions," as Dr. Barus explained. The second piece was by the American Aaron Copland titled *Appalachian Spring*. The piece was originally written for the Martha Graham Ballet in New York and was written to "depict the early history of America. It speaks of two things: man's nature with soil and earth and man's relationship with the giving source above."

A Tzigane, written by the French composer Maurice Ravel for Violin and Orchestra, was performed to give a taste of

the Gypsy music of southeast Europe of that era where players "used to sit by the fire and play solos all through the night." The piece had a some Middle Eastern appeal to it since it's very common in the Arab world for musicians to play and sing to a single instrument at family and national events.

The Orchestra then played Samuel Barber's *Adagio for Strings*. Four pieces from the Spanish composer Manuel de Falla's *The Three Corners* had been played to show the "Middle Eastern influence on European music during the reign of Arabs in Andalusia. This effect gives the music energy and force." Johann's Strauss' Emperor Waltz was played "to

capture the spirit of the musical capital of Vienna." The encore piece was *Pizzicato Polka*, written by the same composer.

Presented by the National Music Conservatory, the concert is only one event of many musical displays this month. On Saturday, 11 May, the Manderling String Quartet and Nora Nigling performed at the RCC. And under the patronage of HM Queen Noor Al-Hussein, a musical concert on Children's Rights was opened on Monday, 13 May, and lasts till Thursday, 13 May. On Wednesday, 22 May, and under the patronage of HRH Princess Ghida will be performing a piano recital. ■

● The European Union and the Delegation of the European Commission are organizing the 8th European Film Festival, which will be raising funds for the "Centre for Special Education" of the Young Muslim Women's Association. The festival begins on Sunday, 19 May and ends on Wednesday, 29 May, bringing to the Jordanian public nine films from nine different European countries and a documentary. Screenings will be at Prince Hassan Auditorium in the University of Jordan.

### Intermarkets wins Golden Sword Award



On March 26 at the advertising industry's premier night organized by Saudi Research & Publishing Company, Intermarkets Advertising bagged the Golden Sword Award for 1995, for the National Commercial Bank print advertisement. Intermarkets also won the Silver Sword Award for the same entry, which was judged the best creative advertisement for the Financial Institutions and General Services category.

The ceremony was led by distinguished members of the Saudi and international business community and attended by clients and advertising agencies.

The award ceremony was followed by a dinner given in the Jeddah Chamber of Commerce building.

Intermarkets has grown to become highly respected by their clients throughout the Middle East for their forward thinking policies that have helped to develop their businesses and the communications industry in every country where they have established offices.

Intermarkets corporate policy of only employing the finest communications experts has ensured that every office in the group remains at the cutting edge of the advertising industry—and they have the swords to prove it! ■

### Blonde for the woman of today



Medical Supplies Bureau (MSB) introduced Blonde, the perfume from Gianni Versace in a reception held last Monday at the Amman Marriott Hotel. It was attended by members of perfume companies, pharmacies, cosmetic shops and journalists.

Mr. Taher Al-Hubad, managing director of the MSB spoke at the reception. Mr. Filippo Evangelista, export area manager representative for the Italian Gianni Versace said "Versace's Blonde is a unique and incomparable perfume. It is a vibrant fragrance of highly concentrated aroma of roses."

Versace's Blonde is accompanied by top floral notes, light of green violets, elegant neroli, and only natural ingredients.

The heart is developed by Jasmine notes with the freshness of daffodils, and

orange flowers. On the base, warm accents envelopes and enriches the perfume.

"Blonde is not in the US and also in the Gulf," Mr. Evangelista told The Star. "Mr. Hubad is distributing it for us in an excellent way in Jordan, we make a good match," he added.

Versace's Blonde perfume is inspired by a real woman, one who loves life, her family and work, a perfume which contains the energy of the new millennium, the pleasure of living in harmony and of being attractive, strong and dynamic. Blonde is intense, highly feminine, and a classy perfume for the woman of today. ■

### OVERHEARD AT TURINO.

Turino enjoyed a busy and very successful time through the holidays. Our great new menu at Turino Restaurant has proved extremely popular and by word of mouth we have welcomed many new friends to Turino. In fact, a real international feeling has been created with Japanese, Australian, Italian, South African and Indian guests dining with us along with some local well-known personalities.

There has been a fantastic response to our 3 special line menus attracting many people some of whom have come back specifically to sample the 4th carte menu.

The walls of our newest outlet Cheers Upstairs, have been resonating with the beat of an extremely talented DJ who has been providing regular pop & dance music to the delight of the late evening crowd.

The holiday season brought many families and couples to Cheers Upstairs where they enjoyed the same famous Cheers menu as our downstairs Elite Cafe but in a slightly softer atmosphere. We hope that many of them will make Cheers Upstairs their favourite venue for a family lunch or dinner.

FOR THE VISITOR TO JORDAN, TURINO RESTAURANT IS TUCKED AROUND THE MAIN SQUARE OF SWEITNEYH ON THE SOUTHERN SIDE OF 6TH CIRCLE.

Try Turino. Do call. It really is worth it.

Turino All Suites Hotel, Sweitneyh, 6th Circle, Amman  
Tel: 863944 • 816690 Fax: 863051

### THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



"We don't know exactly who he is, Captain — a disgruntled worker, we figure."



The Samson family at home



"Go back to sleep, Chuck. You're just havin' a nightmare — of course, we are still in hell."

### AGENDA

#### Exhibitions

■ An exhibition entitled From Picasso to our Present Days from the collection of Museo del Grabado Español Contemporaneo-Marbella at Darat Al-Funun, continues till 6 June.

■ French Book Exhibition, at The French Cultural Center, opening on Sunday 19 May till 22 May

■ An exhibition entitled Christophe Besse, at The French Cultural Center, opening on Sunday 19 May till 27 June

■ The recent works of the artist Ayyad Al Nimr at Darat Al-Funun, continues till 12 June.

■ Joan Miro, at Darat Al-Funun, Thursday 16 May at 6:00 pm.

■ Antonin Saura, at Darat Al-Funun, Thursday 21 May at 6:00 pm.

■ Ma saison preferée, at The French Cultural Center, Wednesday 22 May at 8 pm.

## Amman Theater Company establishes hold on culture scene

The Amman Theater Company, a unique musical theatre group comprising mostly expatriates from English speaking countries, has firmly regained its position in the Amman's cultural scene after several years of absence.

The company was first established in 1984, the director, Kay Mukhar, said. Up till 1991, it was called the Royal Theater Company because it was affiliated to the Royal Cultural Center. Mukhar explained that the company died out as a result of the Gulf War, but it is now being revived.

It currently has over 40 members, mostly from the United States, Canada and Britain. There is also a number of Jordanian members and a Lebanese.

She explained that the aim of the group is "not only just to have a wonderful time of performance on stage," but to

provide an entertaining evening for audiences and to raise money for charity.

The musical director of the group, Michelle Reynolds told The Star, "We hope we can re-establish the theater company and produce plays year after year."

Between 1984 and 1991, the group produced eight different musical productions.

Mukhar, explained that their productions are intended for a wide spectrum of people, since one doesn't need to understand all the language of a musical play to find it interesting.

The group's latest production entitled "Once Upon a Mattress" is to be performed on 21, 22 and 23 May at 7:30 pm, at the Amman Baccalaureate School Auditorium.

The play adopted from a famous

fair tale, is about a queen trying to find a true princess for her son. Several princesses are brought to the palace, and each is asked to sleep on mattresses. One of the mattresses has a pea hidden inside.

The pea is a source of irritation and any princess who is unable to sleep because of this would reveal her true royal blood and marry the prince.

The play, a parody peppered with humor and ludicrous scenes, includes music and dancing, says Ms Reynolds. "Once Upon a Mattress" is choreographed by Debra Fowler, and promises to be one of many to come.

What is distinctive about the theater company is that it produces plays both in Arabic and English. In the 1980's for example they have produced a number of musicals in Arabic. This has proved no problem despite the fact that most members of the group are foreigners. ■

MAY 1996  
Special section offering  
new perspectives on  
global issues prepared for  
The Star

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MAY 1996

A special section offering  
fresh perspectives on  
global issues prepared for

The Star

# THE WORLD PAPER

PRINTED IN FIVE LANGUAGES  
ON FIVE CONTINENTS



## Ancient scourges get a taste of their own medicine

Behind the headlines about AIDS and the Ebola virus is a less heralded story. Three of history's great killers and maimers—smallpox, leprosy and polio—are on death row. By the middle of the next century, there will probably be no new cases of these diseases. Is this the start of a new chapter in medical science, or simply a footnote?

By Crocker Snow, Jr.

IT'S BEEN THE sound of one hand clapping. It should be the sound of three billion hands.

Amplifying this classical Zen catchism is a good way to recognize the eradication of smallpox. It will be the first complete elimination of a natural disease in human history, according to medical historians. Accomplished largely by the United Nations' World Health Organization in little more than a dozen years, the eradication of this disease represents a victory for science, for rationality, for communalism on a global scale. It is a grand accomplishment for the global village.

As recently as 1965, the WHO recorded more than 10 million people afflicted with smallpox, which for many caused blindness, disfigurement or death. More than two million deaths were being recorded annually. Some 31 countries harbored the disease, compelling the international traveler to carry the tell-tale yellow card with proof of vaccination. I still have mine.

So what happened?

When English scientist Edward Jenner inoculated 8-year-old James Phipps with cowpox two centuries ago, thereby protecting him from

smallpox, the door began to close on this ancient scourge. But it took nearly two centuries for the world to summon up the collective will to slam that door. In 1966, the international community, led by member delegates at WHO, reached agreement that eradication of smallpox was possible—a positive pox on everyone's house—and should be achieved. The stark and simple goal was set.

The decision to execute smallpox was one of the few things that didn't touch, and apparently wasn't affected by, the Cold War. Like US President John Kennedy's national decision in 1961 to land a man on the moon, the line was drawn with politically indelible ink. International political will, utilizing established medical and communications technology, was focused. The vaccination program was launched and highly publicized in the 31 countries, ranging from India to Indonesia, where the disease was still rampant.

By the late 1970s victory was in sight, and on May 8, 1980, the World Health Assembly certified the eradication of smallpox. By 1993, a gathering of scientists proposed the elimination of the laboratory stocks of the smallpox virus, thereby stamping out the last embers that could rekindle the killer disease.

The execution itself, however, has been delayed several times. Initially WHO officials were concerned that insufficient cross-cultural scientific attention had been focused on the ramifications of destroying the last viruses. Governments ranging from Australia to France objected on various grounds.

The debate, insofar as there has been one, has been languid. Opponents of destroying the virus, including some eminent in the scientific community, say there still may be hidden cases in cadavers or unknown repositories, that it's anti-science to fully eradicate anything from nature and you just never know.

Proponents of destroying the lab virus say that it will eliminate any possibility of terrorists hijacking the remaining two supplies at the Centers

**Opponents of destroying the smallpox virus say that it's anti-science to fully eradicate anything from nature**

for Disease Control in Atlanta and the Research Center for Virology and Biotechnology in Koltsovo, Novosibirsk. With the virus goes the possibility of it being used for biological warfare. The virus has been fully studied, they say, for all its scientific worth, vaccines have been stockpiled and there is, in short, no earthly reason not to get rid of it.

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### WORLD DIARY

subject perhaps, but not to its significance.

The snuffing out of smallpox is practically, physically and even spiritually a triumph for mankind working together towards a common goal. It comes at a time when the HIV virus continues to afflict young people and baffle science throughout the world, when the

connection between Britain's sorry mad cows and the human neurological poisoning known as Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease is exploding onto the media's radar screen. It comes when efforts to achieve full eradication of ABC (atomic, biological or chemical) weapons are languishing, when science is still seen as Star Wars dangerous and when the UN is dismissed as wasteful and inept.

The end of what was considered one of the world's foremost diseases only 50 years ago is a counter-intuitive triumph for mankind. It deserves more than one hand clapping. ©

CROCKER SNOW JR. IS EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF *The World Paper*.

### A destroyer of childhood dies hard

## For a generation of Australians, polio has two lives

By Anna Patty

AS AUSTRALIA DRAWS near to officially declaring the eradication of polio, nearly half of the country's 40,000 victims are getting an unwelcome reminder of the disease that crippled their youth.

Polio epidemics swept the world during the 1950s and 1960s. Amid widespread uncertainty about how the disease was spread, children were forbidden to use swimming pools, schools were closed and crowds avoided.

Symptoms of the disease were deceptively mild at the onset, with a slight fever and diarrhea. But for many, this progressed into a stiff neck and muscle aches, with 20 percent of the victims experiencing some form of paralysis. The worst afflicted were placed in iron lungs to keep them breathing.

Ken Masom, 62, was 19 when he contracted poliomyelitis, also known as infantile paralysis. The virus paralyzed his legs, but eventually he recovered full use of them.

In recent years, however, Masom has been forced to use an electric wheelchair as the muscles in his legs again atrophied. As many as 20,000 Australians are now known as post-polio syndrome.

As Australians like Masom battle polio's effects for a second time, there is little remaining evidence of the virus that struck them down and afflicted 39 of every 100,000 Australians at its peak in 1938. Vaccines developed by Dr. Jonas Salk and Dr. Albert Sabin eventually batted the epidemics after widespread immunization was introduced in 1958.

Today, Australia is leading the

Asia-Pacific region in the drive to eradicate the disease. Having declared smallpox eradicated in 1980, the World Health Organization (WHO) expects to sound the death knell for the polio virus by 2000.

Since WHO launched its initiative, the number of reported cases worldwide has fallen from 35,255 in 1988 to 6,421 in 1994. During that time, the Americas were declared polio-free, and the WHO estimates US\$3 billion a year is being saved in health costs and lost productivity.

Australia's last case of polio from a "wild" virus was reported in 1978. Since then, there have been two cases stemming from the treated virus used in vaccines. Last year, an unvaccinated 22-year-old woman from the northern state of Queensland contracted polio from her child. It is thought she became infected while changing her child's diaper.

According to doctors, the treated virus used in vaccines becomes more aggressive as it passes through the digestive tract. There is one chance in 3 million that the person being vaccinated will get polio, and one chance in 2 million that somebody coming in close contact with a recently vaccinated child will get the disease.

WHO officials met in Canberra last month to finalize the criteria Australia must satisfy in order to be declared polio-free. This includes documentation proving that there have been no cases of "wild" polio for three years, and evidence of comprehensive surveillance to ensure no case of the disease goes undetected.

The two main obstacles to eradication are Australia's casual approach to vaccination and the presence of the disease in other countries of the Western Pacific region. Australia still has one of the worst childhood vaccination rates in the world, with only 53 percent of children fully immunized by the age of 6.

Polio is on the wane in neighboring countries, and 14 of the 15 wild cases reported last year came from the Mekong Delta region of Cambodia and Vietnam. That the virus is now confined to this region is due, in part,

► TWO LIVES PAGE 2

### Venezuelans find little time to celebrate the eradication of smallpox

## Trading one set of ills for another

By Néstor Rojas

HIDDEN AWAY in his office cubicle, a veteran epidemiologist reads the numbers on the latest disease reports from around Venezuela. He soon realizes that the red marker in his hand—used for flagging worrisome statistics or new outbreaks of disease—is getting more use than expected.

Although Venezuela, like most nations, has eradicated such feared dis-

eases as smallpox, polio and yellow fever, ground has been lost in other areas, notably in efforts against tuberculosis, malaria, encephalitis and dengue fever.

"It's one step forward, one step back," said José Avilán Rovira, statistician and epidemiologist at the Central University of Venezuela. Some experts put the blame, at least partially, on deteriorating economic and social conditions in this oil-rich nation of 22 million people.

Avilán Rovira did a comparative study of contagious diseases over the last decade and concluded that none of Venezuela's 22 states had achieved an acceptable level of disease control. "Despite our efforts, measles and whooping cough are still causing fatalities among children," he noted.

The biggest problem this past year was a combined epidemic of dengue fever and encephalitis near the city of Maracaibo in the country's main oil-

producing region.

An estimated 20,000 cases of dengue and another 20,000 of encephalitis left at least 15 people dead, possibly many more. Authorities estimated that perhaps 70 members of the Guajira indigenous tribe had died, but said they were uncertain because Guajira leaders don't provide statistics.

The epidemic shook the foundations of the public health system and provoked Congress to fire the health minister—something that hadn't hap-

pened in 38 years of democratic government in Venezuela. Health officials were blamed for not maintaining an effective vaccination program against equine encephalitis, which affects horses and donkeys and is spread by mosquitoes who carry the virus from animals to humans.

Dengue fever is also spread by mosquitoes, and there were accusations that

authorities had gone lax in efforts to control breeding of the insects. The fired minister denied there had been negligence on the part of public health authorities, implying that the epidemics were sudden and unforeseen.

Hernán Málaga, a Peruvian who heads the Caracas office of the Pan-American Health Organization, disagreed. "Up through the 1980s,

► ONE SET OF ILLS PAGE 2

### James W. Rouse 1914-1996

James W. Rouse, one of four founding shareholders of *World Times* and *The World Paper* in 1978, passed away last month at age 81 in his hometown of Columbia, Maryland.

Dedicated to enriching and enlivening city-life, he was, at his death, perhaps the world's leading urban renewal evangelist. He practiced what he preached as the highly successful entrepreneurial developer of the first shopping malls, of multipurpose festival marketplaces (Quincy Market in Boston, South Street Seaport in New York, the Harborplace in Baltimore) and the planned community of Columbia, Maryland. Established in 1967, as an antidote to unplanned suburban sprawl, Columbia today counts a mixed population of 82,000.



The success of such projects built the Rouse Company to a market value of \$450 million by the time Rouse retired as chairman in 1985. He then founded the non-profit Enterprise Foundation with his wife Patricia, focusing on affordable urban housing for the poor. For his fresh and successful development vision, he was the subject of a *Time Magazine* cover story and, last year, was awarded the Medal of Freedom by President Bill Clinton.

Rouse's rare mix of realism and optimism was reflected in his involvement with *The World Paper*. He was a committed supporter, intellectually and materially, during the paper's unsteady formative years. "You can do something good in this world or you can make money," he once reminded the early shareholders and editors. "The trick for us is to make money while doing good. That's real success."

Rouse was an eternal optimist. He consistently looked on the bright side of *The World Paper's* role in improving international understanding of key global issues. As *World Paper* shareholders and members of the executive committee, Jim and Patty participated in editorial meetings in China, Poland, Romania, Egypt, Ecuador and Colombia, and insisted on visiting inner cities in all these countries. Rouse's international sensitivities attracted overseas urban renewal assignments in countries as varied as Japan, the Czech Republic, Northern Ireland and Australia. A pillar of *The World Paper* enterprise, Jim Rouse's consistently positive influence is his enduring legacy.

Just havin' a still in hell.

Recent works of the

syndicated at Nimer

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## Study stands in the way of elimination

## Research may be leprosy's best friend

By Rachelle H. B. Fishman

LEPROSY IS NOT what it appears to be—or at least it wasn't. Biblical descriptions of the disease apparently included a wide variety of skin afflictions in addition to actual leprosy, a chronic inflammatory disease caused by the bacillus *Mycobacterium leprae*.

Today, leprosy as a public health problem is well on the way to being controlled. The disease, however, remains not only the subject of misunderstanding, but at times of misbanding, according to some scientists.

Contrary to myth, leprosy is only mildly contagious, and only indirectly does it sometimes lead to the limb deformities that people tend to associate with it. Patients who are being properly treated don't spread the disease or suffer such deformities.

"We have an intensive education program for doctors as well as patients and their families, not only about medical matters but because the word 'leprosy' still carries a stigma, much of which is highly exaggerated," said Ruth Wexler, head nurse and field worker at the Hansen Hospital in Jerusalem, which is dedicated to the diagnosis and treatment of leprosy.

"We use the term 'Hansen's disease'."

DR. RACHELLE H.B. FISHMAN IS THE FOUNDER OF THE ISRAELI-BASED SCIENCE/COMMUNICATION, A FORUM CONNECTING SCIENCE WITH EVERYDAY LIFE.

because the medical community understands our meaning and the lay public is not falsely alarmed," she added. The bacillus that causes the disease was discovered by Gerhard A. Hansen in Norway in 1873.

Until the Middle Ages, and even during the Renaissance, leprosy was common worldwide, though it was noticeably on the decline in Europe and parts of the Middle East by the 1800s.

The last local case in Europe was in 1953 in Norway. In the United States, there are still two small pockets of the disease, in Louisiana and Florida. Israel is registering about one case a month, all of them among immigrants, mostly from India and Africa.

Leprosy is still a significant health problem in about 80 countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America. As of 1994, there were about 2.4 million leprosy patients registered and under care, with more than 90 percent of them confined to 25 countries. About a half million new patients are registered each year.

The good news is that the disease is curable by a combination of drugs given over a period of time, often a year or more. Since 1982, this treatment—called multidrug therapy, or MDT—has cured some 5.6 million patients, cutting by more than half the number of cases worldwide.

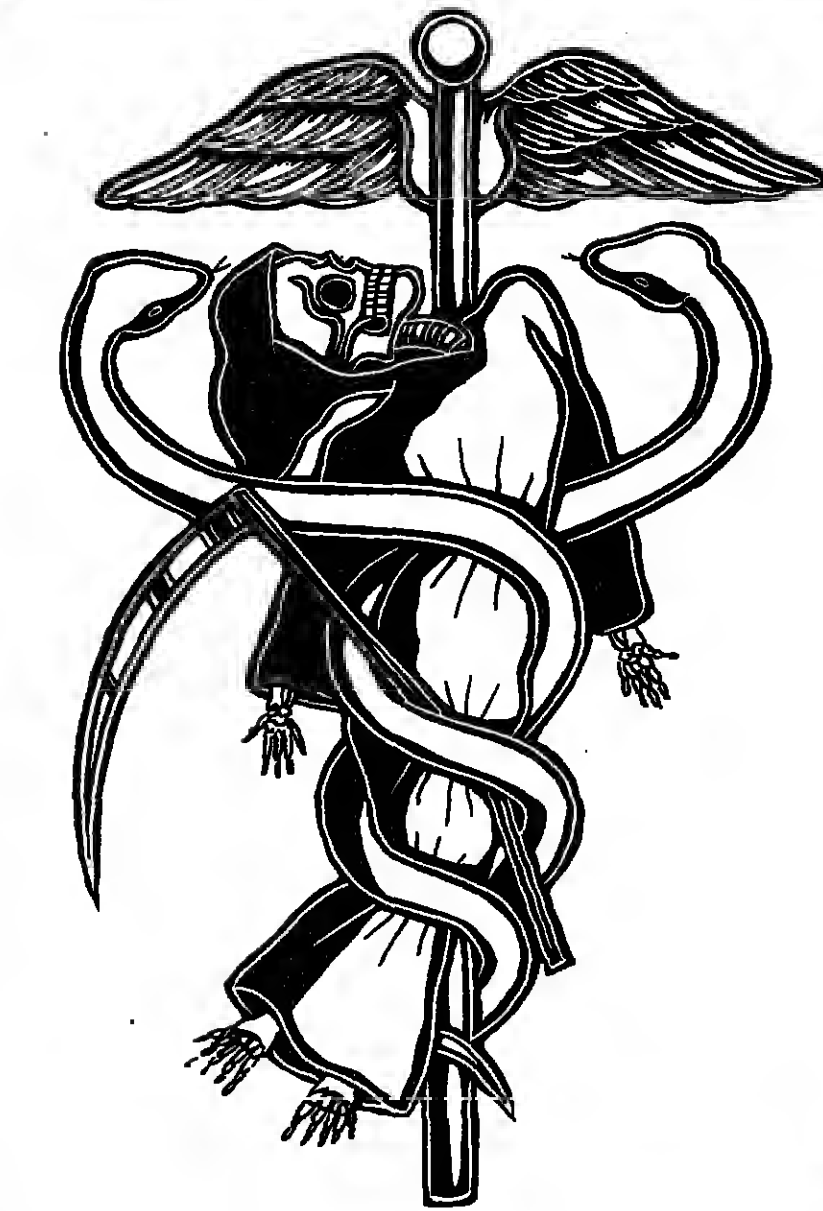
The World Health Organization (WHO) has estimated that almost 90 percent of registered patients are receiving the treatment.

There are several reasons the treatment hasn't been even more successful. One is the problem of making sure patients take the drugs correctly.

"MDT needs supervision and public health field workers willing to go to the patients to make sure they are taking the antibiotics," said Hansen Hospital's Wexler, adding that leprosy patients are no longer hospitalized because there is no need. (The only patients who stay permanently at Hansen Hospital are those who have been there many years and would have trouble moving.)

Another reason the disease hasn't been eradicated is that treatment programs are not always managed well, said Dr. Hillel Bercovier, professor of micro and molecular biology at the Hebrew University-Hadassah Medical School in Jerusalem.

"It is a matter of politics and money that keeps the treatment from taking



effect worldwide," he said. "The problem is one of education, awareness, intervention and follow-up. It must be a combined effort."

**Bercovier charged that the scientific community 'doesn't always behave correctly' because they prefer to continue studying 'this interesting disease'**

Indeed, the International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations was founded in 1966 in London by 22 autonomous non-governmental organizations raising money in the North for anti-leprosy work in the South. The result was 800 field projects in 92 countries. The group spends about US\$60 million a year, of which 72 percent goes for leprosy treatment, 12 percent for training, 10 percent for research and 6 percent for socioeconomic activities.

Because of the success of the drug treatment, the World Health Assembly in 1991 endorsed a strategy to control leprosy worldwide by 2000, with the goal of reducing the incidence of the disease to fewer than one case per 10,000 people in every country. WHO envisaged giving the drug treatment to about 5 million patients for a total cost of about US\$420 million, including US\$150 million for the drugs.

Campbell Miller is among those who have done leprosy work through private channels.

"Through the organization World

## Why leprosy is being eradicated and TB isn't

Tuberculosis, commonly known as TB, and leprosy are related diseases: the bacteria that cause them come from the same genus, *Mycobacteria*. But these cousins couldn't be more different.

Leprosy is well on the way to eradication and by the year 2000 may be eliminated as a health problem. In the same period, drug-resistant forms of TB may have killed tens of millions of people and will still be going strong, according to the World Health Organization.

Why is the outlook so different? Here are two reasons: (1) All bacteria can develop drug resistance, but *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* is particularly prone to do so because it divides every eight hours. The various antibiotics used to kill it must be taken daily, and patients have to be checked constantly over six months for compliance.

The leprosy bacillus divides every 14 days, so there is more leeway for taking the medicine and monitoring compliance, even though the treatment period also is long, often a year and sometimes more. Thus there is a much greater danger that a TB patient will interrupt treatment, that many more bacteria will survive, and that the bacteria will develop immunity to the drugs.

(2) Tuberculosis is much more contagious than leprosy. WHO estimates that a third of the population in the developing world is infected by the disease. Patients who are not treated infect 10 to 20 others each year. In all, WHO predicts that 300 million people will become infected in the next 10 years. Leprosy, on the other hand, is only minimally contagious. Some 95 percent of people who come into contact with a patient during even the most virulent phase of the disease don't contract leprosy at all. Even in India, one of leprosy's last strongholds, less than 1 percent of the population is infected.

—By Rachelle H. B. Fishman

## ONE SET OF ILLS

Continued from page 1

there was a good vaccination program to prevent equine encephalitis," he said. "Last year's situation was not a sudden outbreak. The diseases have been endemic since 1989. We will have epidemics every year until the local community helps solve the problem."

Health officials in Maracaibo say they have controlled the outbreak of dengue and encephalitis, after undertaking a renewed spraying campaign against mosquitoes. They point out that there were only seven cases of dengue fever reported in the first two months of 1996.

But the rainy season—which brings out the mosquitoes—hadn't begun yet, so observers were waiting to see how the rest of the year would develop. And remnants of the encephalitis epidemic were still appearing: five cases of fetal malformation attributed to the encephalitis have been reported among Guajira women who were pregnant while sick, according to Nelia Sánchez, chief of epidemiology for the state of Zulia, where the worst of the epidemic occurred.

Málaga said part of the problem is a deterioration in public services over the past few years. Among other problems, there is not enough safe drinking water and inadequate garbage collection.

In general, the population most at risk will continue to be indigenous tribes, peasants in the countryside, and those living in crowded conditions in marginal urban areas. "Epidemics always affect the groups that society takes care of the least," Málaga noted.

He said malaria increased dramatically starting about six years ago during a modern-day gold rush in southeastern Venezuela, near the Brazilian border.

"As gold production increased, so did malaria," he said. In the 1980s, some 3,000 cases of malaria were reported each year. In the early 1990s, there were 50,000 cases in two states alone. A combined effort by public health officials and the military reduced the figure to 10,000 or so each of the last two years.

Fatalities from tuberculosis also increased in 1990, surpassing 1,000 for the first time in 20 years (although this is nothing like the turn of the century when TB killed per-

haps 10,000 people a year). Leprosy is also still taking lives, with 15 fatalities recorded in 1993, the most recent year for which there are statistics. But the current level of 10,000 active cases is only a fraction of the number prevalent 50 years ago.

"There is no doubt that the economic and social situation influences all the pathologies," said Dr. Oswaldo Godoy, head of the Health Ministry's division of infectious disease. "Poverty and malnutrition contribute to the increase in disease."

On the bright side, Venezuela has recorded no cases of smallpox or polio for five years, and none of yellow fever for 15 years. ☐

NÉSTOR ROJAS IS UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL'S CHIEF CORRESPONDENT FOR VENEZUELA.

## TWO LIVES

Continued from page 1

to the \$5 million in vaccines and medical supplies that Australia has given to its neighbors in recent years.

The remaining case last year was one that was imported into China, where a massive program of immunization has almost wiped out the virus. India and parts of Africa remain the world's worst polio "hot spots," with 75 percent of the world's reported cases coming from India.

While Australian officials are confident that their country will be certified polio-free by 1997, barring an outbreak from imported cases, polio's legacy will linger a bit longer. Sydney's Prince of Wales Hospital Medical Research Institute is now one of the world's leading authorities on post-polio syndrome, having developed the largest global database on the muscle strength of patients.

According to the institute's director, Professor Simon Gandevia, the resurgence of polio-like symptoms owes less to muscle damage than it does to a brain-related impairment and the effects of aging. Nevertheless, the cumulative effect is a 1 to 2 percent increase in muscle fatigue each year, and for some survivors this means they must confront polio for the second time in their lives. ☐

ANNA PATTY IS THE MEDICAL REPORTER FOR *The Sun-Herald* NEWSPAPER IN SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA.

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|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1 10 20 30 40 | 2 10 20 30 40 | 3 10 20 30 40  | 4 10 20 30 40  | 5 10 20 30 40  | 6 10 20 30 40  |
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# The Star's TV GUIDE

Programs on JTV from 18-24 May



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## Cinema

"FULL BODY MASSAGE" (Paramount,): Nicolas Roeg ("The Man Who Fell to Earth") directed this drama — originally shown on cable's Showtime — about a masseur's (Bryan Brown) link to an art-gallery owner (Mimi Rogers) who is one of his clients. Though their relationship is strictly professional at the outset, it soon takes on many different shadings as they start to develop personal ties. \*\* (Not rated: AS, N, P, V)

"JOSH KIRBY... TIME WARRIOR! JOURNEY TO THE MAGIC CAVERN" (Paramount,): The bizarre world of the so-called "Mushroom People" poses dilemmas for time-traveler Josh (Corbin Allred) and his companions in this latest chapter of the made-for-video serial. As if they don't have enough trouble with those creatures, they also have a showdown with the sinister Dr. Zoetrope. \*\* (Not rated: P, V)

"HELD OVER: 'STRANGE DAYS'" (Fox,): Director James Cameron's ("The Terminator," "True Lies") inventive, visually dazzling melodrama of the near-future casts Ralph Fiennes as a seller of people's virtual-reality experiences at the time of the millennium. His own immersion into one of the "borrowed memories" thrusts him into life-threatening danger. Angela Bassett, Juliette Lewis and Tom Sizemore also star. \*\*\* (R: AS, P, V)

"FACES" (Fox Lorber,): Arriving on video along with another of film auteur John Cassavetes' never-before-on-tape dramas, "Shadows," this emotionally grueling 1968 survey of a number of couples focuses on the theme of infidelity... which appears to run rampant among them. Cast members include Gena Rowlands (Cassavetes' widow), John Marley, Lynn Carlin and Seymour Cassel ("Under Suspicion"). (R: AS, P)

"THE MANY ADVENTURES OF WINNIE THE POOH" (Disney,): A.A. Milne's lovable character and all of his pals — Piglet, Eeyore, Tiger and the other dwellers of the Hundred Acre Wood — find plenty of misadventure in their usual habitat in this animated offering. The release compiles the featurettes "Winnie the Pooh and the Honey Tree" and "Winnie the Pooh and the Blustery Day," and also includes extra footage. \*\*\* (G)

COMING SOON: "WAITING TO EXHALE" (Fox, April 23): Whitney Houston and Angela Bassett head the cast of novelist Terry McMillan's drama about four close female friends. (R)

"THE ARISTOCATS" (Disney, April 24): The animated classic about high-living felines features the voices of Phil Harris, Eva Gabor and ventriloquist Paul Winchell. (G)

"HOW TO MAKE AN AMERICAN QUILT" (MCA/Universal, April 30): Winona Ryder plays a young woman who gets valuable lessons in life from her female elders. (PG-13)

FAMILY-VIEWING GUIDE KEY: AS, adult situations; N, nudity; P, profanity; V, violence; GV, particularly graphic violence.

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### ENGLISH PROGRAMS

#### SATURDAY

3:00—Moomin  
3:30—Pumpkin Patch  
3:55—Blue Heelers  
4:35—Big Brother Jake  
5:00—News Flash  
5:00—French Programs  
7:30—News Headlines  
7:35—The Arab Cup Winners (Cup Championship)  
9:10—Prism  
9:40—News at Ten  
10:00—Eurovision Song Contest (Live from Oslo)

#### SUNDAY

3:00—The Flintstones  
3:30—Bush School  
3:45—Mac and Mandy  
4:10—Italian Soccer  
5:00—News Flash  
5:01—French Programs  
7:30—News Headlines  
7:35—Cinema, Cinema  
8:00—The American Chart Show  
8:45—The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air  
9:10—Blackie's Magic  
10:00—News at Ten  
10:25—The Bold and the Beautiful  
11:15—Counterstrike

#### MONDAY

3:00—Bonkers  
3:30—Richie Rich  
3:55—Playabout  
4:00—Animals of the Mediterranean  
4:35—Bustin' Loose  
5:00—News Flash  
5:01—French Programs  
7:30—News Headlines  
7:35—The Arab Cup

### Winners (Cup Championship)

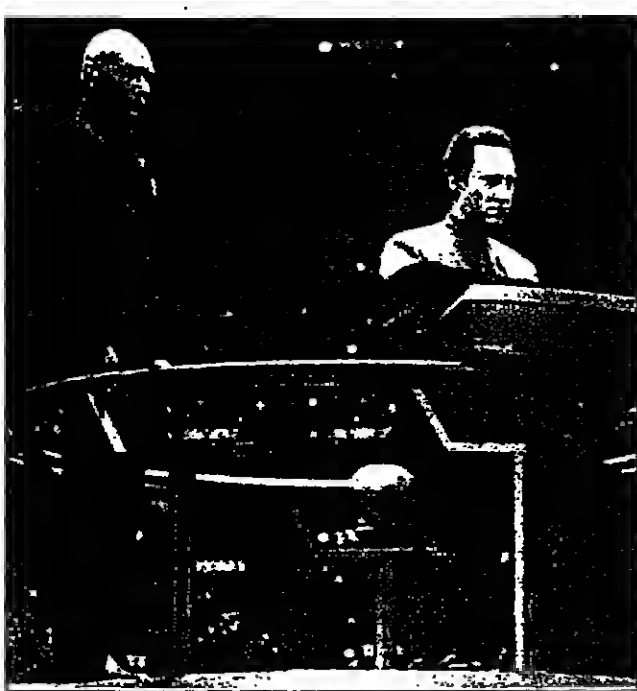
9:10—100 Years of Capitalism in Korea  
10:00—News at Ten  
10:25—The Bold and the Beautiful  
11:10—P.S. I Love U  
11:55—Taurus Rising

#### TUESDAY

3:00—Iris: the Happy Professor  
3:20—Captain Planet  
3:45—Scientific Eye  
4:10—The Boh Morrison Show  
4:35—AIH  
5:00—News Flash  
5:01—French Programs  
7:30—News Headlines  
7:35—Encounter  
8:00—Home Improvement  
8:25—Life in the Freezer  
9:10—Star Trek  
10:00—News at Ten  
10:25—The Bold and the Beautiful  
11:10—Feature Film: Jaws II, starring: Roy Scheider

#### WEDNESDAY

3:00—The Flintstones  
3:30—Dinosaurs  
3:55—The New 3 Stooges  
4:00—Bill Nye the Science Guy  
4:30—Alex Mac  
5:00—News Flash  
5:01—French Programs  
7:30—News Headlines  
7:35—Evening Shade  
8:00—Computer Chronicles  
8:30—Chancer  
9:10—UEFA Champions League Final  
10:00—News at Ten  
10:15—UEFA Champions



Star Trek, on Monday at 9:10pm

### League Final Second Half

11:55—Airwolf

11:55—Are You Being Served

#### THURSDAY

3:00—Aladdin  
3:30—The New 3 Stooges  
3:55—NBA  
4:35—Pirates  
5:00—French Programs  
7:30—News Headlines  
7:35—Carol and Company  
8:00—Tarata  
9:10—Star Trek  
10:00—News at Ten  
10:25—Feature Film: Snowbound, starring: Neil Patrick Harris

#### FRIDAY

3:00—Iris the Happy Professor  
3:20—The Pebbles and Bamm Bamm Show  
3:45—Bush School  
3:55—See How They Grow  
4:05—Gillette World Sports Special  
4:30—Crystal Maze  
5:00—News Flash  
5:01—French Programs  
7:30—News Headlines  
7:35—Growing Pains  
8:00—Nasty Boys  
8:45—It Had To Be You  
9:10—The Hanging Gale

### PROGRAMMES EN FRANÇAIS

#### SAMEDI

5:00—Dessins animés  
Ordy  
5:15—Emission jeunesse  
La vie devant moi  
5:30—Jeux  
Que le meilleur gagne  
6:00—Magazine  
Savoir plus santé  
7:00—Le journal  
7:15—Magazine  
Ushuala

#### MERCREDI

5:00—Dessins animés  
Le chat perché  
5:30—Série  
Maigret  
«Maigret et la vieille dame»  
7:00—Le journal  
7:15—Magazine  
Sports et musique

#### JEUDI

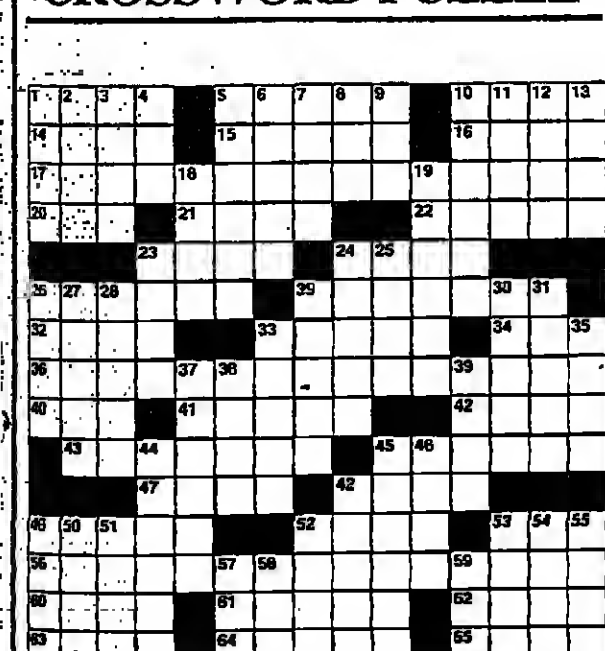
5:00—Dessin animé  
Le chat perché  
5:30—Variétés  
Le monde est à vous  
«Pierre Bachelet»  
7:00—Le journal  
7:15—Magazine  
Archimède

#### VENREDI

5:00—Dessins animés  
Le chat perché  
5:30—Film  
«Les vacances de l'inspecteur Lester»  
7:00—Le journal  
7:15—Magazine  
Allo la Terre

Programs are subject to change by JTV

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS  
1. One-way  
5. Altair  
10. Qualified  
14. Papal  
15. Follow  
16. Unheeding  
17. On the...  
18. (Impulsively)  
20. Decade  
21. Telegram  
22. Small pests  
23. Say it isn't  
24. Garden  
25. Roughen by rubbing  
26. Doin'  
27. Soothe  
28. Menu  
29. Wind  
30. Direction  
31. Erratically  
32. Snigger's catch  
33. Mane  
34. Wind  
35. Direction  
36. Erratically  
37. Snigger's catch  
38. Mane  
39. Wind  
40. Direction  
41. Erratically  
42. Snigger's catch  
43. Mane  
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56. Erratically  
57. Snigger's catch  
58. Mane  
59. Wind  
60. Direction  
61. Erratically  
62. Snigger's catch  
63. Mane  
64. Wind

## —THIS WEEK'S— HOROSCOPE

By Linda Black

Weekly Tip: The sun and moon are both in Aries. That should motivate even the most determined couch potato to get outside for some exercise.

Aries (March 21-April 19). The Sun's going out of your sign with a flourish this year. Do everything you've been contemplating. Balance your checkbook so you can go shopping.

Taurus (April 20-May 20). You're under lots of pressure. It seems like everything's coming due at the same time. Things start changing for the better soon, though.

Gemini (May 21-June 21). What with club meetings, parties and sports activities, you may be tempted to shine on your regular job.

Cancer (June 22-July 22). Don't get all wiggly if somebody yells at you. Tempers will be short and emotions intense. Either participate or stay out of the way.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22). Get out for a run. A tough supervisor will be even more insufferable, so don't bother to argue. Party with friends as much as possible.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You could make a pretty good deal. Check the job board and stop in for a chat with the people who know about those things.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're in for a wild ride. Expect all your buttons to get pushed, by a person you find fascinating and repulsive simultaneously.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your workload increases. You'll need every bit of energy you can muster to finish a tough assignment.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). If you're not in love now, you will be soon. Cupid has you in his sights. A situation you don't want to deal with pushes you to make a change.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You may choose to stay home. If you're not actually sick, consider it preventive medicine. Something there needs your attention, anyway.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You are brilliant. You're generating enough current to read by.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20). Call a friend for inspiration. You'll need it. If you win the lottery, promise you won't spend it all.

If You're Having a Birthday This Week: Make up a budget this year and stick to it. You're making lots of money, so don't waste it all.

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## Bridge

Pick the Trump Suit  
By Tannah Hirsch

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH  
♠ AK 10  
♥ Q J 8 2  
♦ Void  
♣ A Q J 9 8 6

WEST  
♠ J 8 2  
♥ 7 6 3  
♦ 7 6 4 3 2  
♣ 7 2

EAST  
♠ 6 5 3  
♥ 5 4  
♦ AKJ 10 8 5  
♣ 3

SOUTH  
♠ 9 7 4  
♥ AK 10 9  
♦ Q 9  
♣ K 10 5 4

The bidding:  
North 1♣ East 1♥ South 2♥ West 2♠  
North 3♥ East 3♠ South 3♠ West 3♠  
North 4♥ East 4♠ South 4♠ West 4♠  
North 5♥ East 5♠ South 5♠ West 5♠  
North 6♥ East 6♠ South 6♠ West 6♠

Opening lead: Three of ♠

It is hard to find anything in the multitude of bridge books on choosing the right trump suit. Only the late Albert Moorehead, in his classic "Moorehead on Bidding," went into the subject in any depth.

It is not enough simply to choose your strongest suit. For example, a 4-4 fit would, in many circum-

stances, be preferable to a 5-4 or even a 6-4 fit, since you can take discards on your long suit while keeping trump control in either the closed hand or dummy. One time it is right to choose the stronger suit is when the side 4-4 fit consists of two weak four-card suits and you might be able to discard potential losers in your shorter fit on a third suit in one hand or the other. Another instance when you should choose the stronger fit rather than the 4-4 is when the long suit won't provide useful discards in the other hand. That lessens the chance of an opposing ruff in the non-trump combination.

Look at this hand from a team match. In one room North-South breezed into a grand slam in clubs which had no play as the cards lie. Declarer could score only two spade tricks, six trumps and four hearts — down one.

At the other table the bidding went as shown. North showed a strong hand with the cue-bid of the enemy suit. South twice raised clubs, promising at least good four-card support. North then cue-bid spades and used the Grand Slam Force to check on trump honors. South's jump to seven hearts promised two of the top three.

There was nothing to the play. Besides the same 12 tricks available in clubs, declarer scored a diamond ruff in dummy to bring the total to 13.

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## Jumble

Unscramble these four words, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LAQUI  
HEWIG  
ENGRYT  
NEWECH

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: A

ANSWER: WHAT THE TYCOON CONSIDERED HIS WINNING POINT

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## Words of Wisdom

When you lose patience, you lose possession of your soul.

...

Popularity has many pitfalls but no real benefit.

...

If you don't want your secrets told, do not tell them to even one other person.

...

Success is more a matter of perseverance than genius.

...

The secret of great wit is saying much by saying little.

...

Acts of kindness may not receive a lot of attention at the time, but they are never forgotten.

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## 8th European Film Festival

● The member states of the European Union and the Delegation of the European Commission are organising the 8th European Film Festival. It will be held under the patronage of HRH Princess Saravali.

The films will be screened between 19th and 29th May. Each film will be shown twice, with the first screening taking place at 8 pm, and the second taking place the following day at 5 pm. Italy will open the festival with *Caro Diario*. Following this comes *Ciske the Rat* from the Netherlands, *Shadowlands* from the United Kingdom, *Das Versprechen* from Germany, *Un Indien dans la Ville* from France, *Nionde Kompaniet* from Sweden and *Anchoress* from Belgium. Spain and Greece will introduce *Despues del Sueno*, *del Sueno*, and *Jaguar* respectively. The Festival will close with a Documentary entitled *Les Enfants de Lumiere*.

The screenings will take place at the Prince Hassan Auditorium in the University of Jordan. Prices are JD 1 with a reduced price for students at 500 fils.

The Young Women's Muslim Association will benefit from all the proceeds.

### PROGRAMME

|  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. Caro Diario (Italy)                   | Sunday 19 May 8:00 pm    |
|  | Monday 20 May 5:00 pm    |
| 2. Ciske the Rat (Netherlands)           | Monday 20 May 8:00 pm    |
|  | Tuesday 21 May 5:00 pm   |
| 3. Shadowlands (UK)                      | Tuesday 21 May 8:00 pm   |
|  | Wednesday 22 May 5:00 pm |
| 4. Das Versprechen (Germany)             | Wednesday 22 May 8:00 pm |
|  | Thursday 23 May 5:00 pm  |
| 5. Un Indien dans la Ville (France)      | Thursday 23 May 8:00 pm  |
|  | Friday 24 May 5:00 pm    |
| 6. Nionde Kompaniet (Sweden)             | Friday 24 May 8:00 pm    |
|  | Saturday 25 May 5:00 pm  |
| 7. Anchoress (Belgium)                   | Sunday 26 May 8:00 pm    |
|  | Monday 27 May 5:00 pm    |
| 8. Despues del Sueno (Spain)             | Monday 27 May 8:00 pm    |
|  | Tuesday 28 May 5:00 pm   |
| 9. Jaguar (Greece)                       | Tuesday 28 May 8:00 pm   |
|  | Wednesday 29 May 5:00 pm |
| 10. Les Enfants de Lumiere (Documentary) | Wednesday 29 May 8:00 pm |

Entrance Ticket is priced at JD 1 for adults and 500 fils for students. All proceeds will go to the Centre for Special Education of the YMCA

## The Star

Tel. 652380 Fax. 64829



HAPPY FAMILIES  
ARE ALL ALIKE;  
EVERY UNHAPPY  
FAMILY  
IS UNHAPPY IN  
ITS OWN WAY.

© 1996, Tribune Media Services



# Le Jourdain

Supplément en français du Star

## Les menaces d'attentats arbitrent les élections

Le meurtre lundi d'un colon en Cisjordanie et un regain de tension au Liban ont rendu encore plus pesantes les menaces d'attentats durant la campagne électorale israélienne. Cinq militaires ont en effet été blessés au Sud Liban dimanche au cours d'une embuscade tendue par la milice chiite du Hezbollah. Les services de sécurité israéliens ont par ailleurs annoncé l'arrestation d'un Palestinien détenteur d'un passeport jordanien qui projetait de commettre des attentats suicide en Israël. A dix jours d'un scrutin crucial pour l'avenir du processus de paix, l'opposition du Likoud serait la première bénéficiaire de nouvelles attaques terroristes. C'est en tout cas sur cette atmosphère d'insécurité qu'est basée toute la campagne de M. Netanyahu pour permettre au Likoud de remporter ces élections. Selon différents instituts de sondage, Shimon Peres ne dispose en effet que d'une courte avance, estimée entre 4 et 6% des voix. Or, d'après un sondage Gallup publié le week-end dernier, 46% d'Israéliens donnent M. Netanyahu gagnant si un nouvel attentat a lieu, M. Peres devant alors se contenter de 25% des voix.



### Reportage

## La difficile survie du peuple irakien

Les missions internationales se succèdent en Irak pour évaluer la situation sanitaire de ce pays placé sous embargo depuis maintenant six ans. A chaque fois, les mêmes scènes catastrophiques sont décrites, comme à Al Thawra, dans la banlieue de Bagdad.

**A Al Thawra**, une des banlieues les plus pauvres d'Irak, le réseau du tout-à-l'égout est complètement détruit. Les rues et les ruelles sont devenues des voies d'évacuation pour tous les déchets organiques. «Le réseau est cassé depuis le bombardement de Bush», expliquent des femmes d'Al Thawra. Fautes de pièces de rechange, le réseau n'a en effet pas été réparé depuis plusieurs années.

«Le système d'évacuation existe chez moi mais il s'arrête devant ma porte, avant de rejoindre le regard d'égout», témoigne une femme. «Je dois donc aller moi-même plus de cinq fois par jour les canalisations. Je ramasse les déchets dans un sac que je jette plus loin, et puis j'enlève l'eau fécale. On fait la même chose dans chaque maison, et à la fin de la semaine, un camion de pompage passe pour récupérer cette eau malade».

Malgré l'absence de déchets et de l'eau qui coule, la vie continue dans cette banlieue. A Al Thawra vivent plus d'un million d'habitants. La plupart sont des immigrants venus du sud de l'Irak pendant la guerre Iran-Irak. Les problèmes que rencontre cette banlieue ne s'arrêtent pas à des difficultés matérielles dues à un système d'évacuation défectueux. Les conséquences sanitaires qui en découlent sont en effet catastrophiques.

A cause de leurs faibles revenus, les familles de ce quartier sont obligées de s'entasser dans des maisons pour survivre. Une surpopulation effrayante dans des habitations sans eau courante. Les enfants qui jouent pieds-nus dans ces rues aux allures de dépotoir ramènent toute sorte de maladie contagieuse chez eux, n'ayant pas la



On évalue à environ 560 000 le nombre d'enfants morts depuis le début de l'embargo contre l'Irak. Dans les hôpitaux, on ne peut plus traiter les cas de malnutrition.

possibilité de se laver en rentrant.

La population vit dans un cercle vicieux. L'eau qui coule dans ces rues finit en effet par être évacuée dans le Tigre. Or, l'eau qu'on leur donne à boire est prise dans le Tigre, sans être purifiée auparavant.

Les sanctions internationales empêchant des pièces de rechange destinées aux usines de traitement d'arriver. L'épandage est la maladie la plus répandue à cause de cette pollution de l'eau et de la mauvaise qualité de la nourriture. La diarrhée semble s'aggraver plus personne. Le malnutrition n'est plus considérée comme une maladie suffisamment importante pour être admise dans un hôpital. Car les hôpitaux ne sont plus capables de s'occuper de ces malades. «On lui a donné des médicaments pour lutter contre la déshydratation mais une semaine plus tard, une infection se déclarait. Ils

n'avaient alors plus rien à lui donner à l'hôpital», explique une mère a perdu un des ses enfants l'année dernière. «Il a perdu de la vie son énergie et est mort en une semaine».

### Des hôpitaux impuissants

Le nombre de cas de malnutrition dans les hôpitaux du Nord de l'Irak était d'environ 60 par an en 1989. Il est monté à 88 en 1995. Ces données ne reflètent pas vraiment la gravité de la situation qui a cessé d'empirer ces cinq dernières années. Beaucoup d'habitants se méfient en effet des hôpitaux où ils savent que de nombreux virus peuvent les frapper en raison des mauvaises conditions d'hygiène.

A cause du manque d'infirmités ou de docteurs, on n'a par exemple plus le temps de stériliser les instruments qui servent plusieurs fois. L'hôpital

n'est donc plus considéré comme un endroit où l'on peut guérir, mais comme un lieu dangereux où l'on ne peut pas grand chose pour vous.

Sur place, il est difficile d'imaginer une solution rapide à cette situation sanitaire déplorable. Les négociations en cours «pétrole contre nourriture» ne suffisent pas à rassurer la population et le personnel médical. Fournir de la nourriture ou des médicaments ne permet pas de remédier à la situation.

C'est l'ensemble des conditions sanitaires qu'il faut améliorer, en réparant notamment les structures détruites lors de la guerre du Golfe et jamais réparées depuis. Il est en effet inutile de soigner un enfant souffrant de diarrhée si celui-ci doit boire quelques jours plus tard à nouveau la même eau.

A Bagdad, Oroob El Abed

### Cabinet palestinien

## Arafat joue la modération

Après un mois d'attente, Yasser Arafat a dévoilé la composition du nouveau cabinet palestinien. Un gouvernement qui se veut d'ouverture, dans lequel il a intégré quelques opposants modérés.

Après une attente mêlée d'espoir pour les uns et d'inquiétude pour les autres au sein de la classe politique palestinienne émergeante, le président de l'Autorité nationale palestinienne Yasser Arafat a annoncé la semaine dernière la composition du nouveau cabinet. Celui-ci est issu en majorité du Conseil législatif élu au suffrage universel lors des élections du 20 janvier dernier.

Ce cabinet de 29 membres comporte quelques grandes caractéristiques. Il incarne bien sûr la volonté du chef de l'OLP de garder une certaine stabilité du pouvoir en reconduisant la majorité des ministres. Cependant, la présence de huit nouveaux ministres annonce certains changements dans le paysage politique officiel. Ainsi Bachir Barghouti du Parti populaire palestinien (ex-communiste) fait son entrée au gouvernement. Depuis mai 1994, les Communistes boudaient l'appareil officiel palestinien: ils avaient notamment pratiquement cessé d'exercer toute activité au sein du Comité exécutif. Ils reviennent en force aujourd'hui sur la scène politique pour tenter de participer aux discussions sur le statut final des territoires palestiniens.

La nomination de Imad Fajouli, député islamiste ex porte-parole du Hamas et ancien rédacteur en chef d'Al Watan, est elle aussi un symbole d'ouverture vers les mouvements d'opposition palestiniens, même si Imad Fajouli n'occupe plus de fonctions au



Pour la formation de ce cabinet, Yasser Arafat a fait appel en majorité à des ministres déjà présents dans le gouvernement précédent ou à des élus du Conseil législatif.

seu du Hamas. Il en a été exclu après s'être présenté aux élections générales de janvier. Cette entrée au gouvernement intervient au moment où le dialogue entre l'Autorité palestinienne et le Hamas est dans une phase critique après la vague d'attentats du mois de février.

La présence d'Abdel Jawad Saleh correspond aussi à la volonté d'intégrer des personnalités de différents bords politiques. Ancien maître d'EI Bireh, au Nord de Jérusalem, ce nationaliste indépendant est en effet connu pour ses critiques à l'égard de Yasser Arafat.

Enfin, Abou Af Shalhine, un des chefs de file des «faucous» du Fatah, obtient lui aussi un ministère. Il a notamment été le responsable du Fatah dans les prisons israéliennes, puis au Sud-Liban.

Un autre homme de terrain,

Abdel Ahmad Rahman, retrouve des fonctions importantes après avoir été responsable de l'information à Tunis.

Ce gouvernement exprime donc bien la volonté d'un rapprochement avec l'opposition et avec tous les hommes pouvant aider à la reconstruction des territoires.

En effet, depuis les élections et la formation du conseil législatif, des divergences de plus en plus fortes apparaissent entre le pouvoir exécutif et le pouvoir législatif. Or, dans les négociations définitives, le président Arafat a besoin plus que jamais d'avoir le soutien de toutes les forces politiques pour assumer une responsabilité historique.

De Gaza, Hassan Balawi

### Sport

## La Jordanie remet les crampons

Avec une longue interruption, la saison de football reprend. Grâce à la coupe arabe des clubs vainqueurs de coupe qui se déroule actuellement, le public jordanien a la chance de voir ses meilleures équipes jouer à domicile des matches internationaux.

### Le ballon rond

reprenait le service en Jordanie. Avec la coupe arabe des clubs vainqueurs de coupe qui se déroule à Amman depuis lundi, les supporters peuvent à nouveau voir évoluer leurs deux meilleures équipes après une interruption de plusieurs mois cet hiver.

Six équipes ont fait le déplacement en Jordanie pour disputer la septième coupe arabe, à laquelle participent deux équipes jordanienues: Al Quedrat et Al Faisali, club détenteur de la coupe. Les autres participants viennent d'Arabie Saoudite, du Bahreïn, d'Algérie, du Qatar, du Soudan et du Maroc. Aucune de ces équipes n'a jamais remporté ce trophée. Le vainqueur de l'an dernier, le club Al Afriqi de Tunisie, n'est pas à Amman cette semaine pour défendre son titre. Pratiquement tous les matches auront lieu au stade de la cité des sports, la finale étant prévue le 22 mai.

Pour les équipes jordanienues, il sera bien difficile de s'adjuger pour la première fois ce trophée. Certaines équipes comme le Qatar et l'Irak comptent en effet des joueurs professionnels, dont le Brésilien Edelson ou le Marocain Ahmad Bahja qui a disputé la dernière Coupe du monde.

Il s'agit en fait surtout pour les joueurs locaux de reprendre contact avec la compétition de haut niveau. Après avoir repris le championnat de première division au début du mois, les meilleurs joueurs jordanienues vont en effet bientôt disputer des matches importants au sein de l'équipe nationale. C'est à Amman que se déroulera la Coupe d'Asie pour le groupe de la Jordanie. La Jordanie affrontera du 7 au 11 août l'Irak, le Bangladesh et le Pakistan.

Différentes possibilités avaient été envisagées par la Fédération jordanienne pour préparer tous ces rendez-vous internationaux dans les meilleures conditions possibles, dont la venue d'un entraîneur étranger pour l'équipe nationale.

L'ancien entraîneur national français Michel Hidalgo devait d'ailleurs lui-même venir donner quelques conseils aux joueurs et entraîneurs jordanienues au mois de mars. Une collaboration qui n'a finalement jamais vu le jour. Le nouveau secrétaire général de la fédération, Hisham Lutfi Asfour, ne désespère en tout cas pas de trouver un nouveau candidat. Il est vrai que la Jordanie a déjà fait appel dans le passé à des entraîneurs anglais, yougoslave ou russe.

**Michel Hidalgo forfait**  
Pour se préparer à cet événement et tenter de se qualifier, l'équipe nationale jordanienne jouera quelques matches amicaux, dont un contre le Qatar prochainement. La Fédération

pense déjà aussi aux éliminatoires de la Coupe du monde qui auront lieu dans moins d'un an. Cette fois, la Jordanie se retrouvera dans le même groupe que les Émirats arabes unis et Bahreïn.

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Olivier Bras

### Musique

## Le Conservatoire joue sur toute la gamme

Depuis sa création en 1986, le Conservatoire national de musique n'a cessé de développer ses activités. En sus des nombreux enseignements musicaux qu'il dispense, il dispose d'un ambassadeur de qualité dans le royaume: son orchestre.

**Créé en 1986** par la fondation Nour Al Hussein, dépendant directement de sa majesté la Reine Nour qui lui apporte un soutien important, le Conservatoire national de musique de Jordanie connaît depuis une forte expansion.

Passé de 45 étudiants en 1986 à 450 aujourd'hui, le Conservatoire continue de faire preuve d'innovation, déployant beaucoup d'efforts pour maintenir sa progression... et assurer son existence. Car avec 63 professeurs, certains travaillant uniquement à mi-temps, et une douzaine d'employés administratifs, les frais courants sont énormes et ne sont pas couverts par les rentrées d'argent provenant des frais de scolarité. Il n'est par ailleurs pas possible d'augmenter le montant des scolarités sans risquer d'empêcher les étudiants déjà inscrits de rester, ou de dissuader de nouveaux de venir.

A Amman, la saison musicale s'étend chaque année d'octobre à juin. Les concerts y sont donnés par des musiciens venus de l'étranger ainsi que par des artistes locaux. Les concerts organisés sous l'égide du Conservatoire, pour la plupart

excellents sur le plan musical, n'apportent en fait qu'une contribution matérielle négligeable, quand ils ne sont pas tout simplement déficitaires. Ils ne touchent en effet qu'un public assez restreint.

La source de revenus la plus importante, avec les scolarités, reste les dons privés. En effet, les contributions personnelles ou venant d'entreprises deviennent de plus en plus importantes. Le Conservatoire a la bonne idée de publier la liste de ses bienfaiteurs dans chaque livre qu'il imprime à l'occasion d'un concert. Une manière raffinée de remercier les uns et d'encourager les autres. Il est intéressant de noter que ces dons viennent de sources très différentes: entreprises ou parents d'élèves n'ayant apparemment aucun lien avec le Conservatoire.

Ces dons, aussi essentiels soient-ils sur le plan financier, sont également le reflet de l'intérêt que porte une partie de la population au développement de la musique en Jordanie.

La plupart des instruments sont enseignés au Conservatoire. Piano et violon y sont bien sûr les rois, mais égale-



De l'avis des mélomanes qui suivent l'orchestre du Conservatoire national de musique, chaque prestation est meilleure que la précédente.

ment les cuivres, bois et percussions. Pour certains instruments comme la guitare, deux programmes sont proposés, classique ou moderne. Des cours de direction d'orchestre y sont actuellement dispensés par un chef d'orchestre français, Jean-Philippe Rouchon. La musique arabe n'est pas en reste. Le «oud» et le «qanoun» occupent en effet une place de choix parmi les instruments du Conservatoire.

Comme cela est souvent le cas, le Conservatoire n'a aucun monopole sur l'enseignement de la musique en Jordanie. Ses concurrents dans le royaume sont l'Académie jordanienne ainsi que quelques écoles privées, en plus, bien entendu, des cours dispensés par des professeurs particuliers. Le Conservatoire reste néanmoins le lieu le plus célèbre du pays pour apprendre la musique.

Dirigé par le dynamique et sympathique professeur Kifah Fakhouri, musicien enthousiaste et administrateur infatigable, le Conservatoire est sur la bonne voie. Le professeur Fakhouri est assisté par une

jeune équipe, non moins dynamique et consciente de participer à la réalisation de quelque chose d'important dans le pays. Le Conservatoire est lié au Royal Board of Music de Londres qui fait passer chaque année des examens. Tout comme le Conservatoire de Boulogne, en France, avec qui il collabore également. Récemment d'ailleurs, le directeur du conservatoire de Boulogne, Alfred Herzog, est venu à Amman pour juger de la qualité des élèves jordanienues.

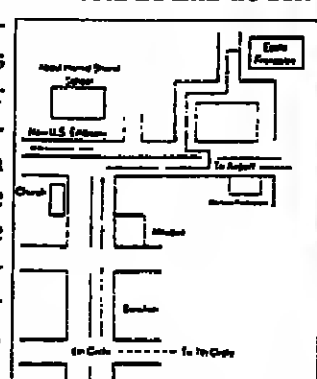
Il serait injuste de ne pas mentionner, en plus d'évidents talents individuels locaux, la bonne performance de l'orchestre du Conservatoire. Composé d'enseignants et d'étudiants, cette formation a su en peu de temps, et dans un contexte social assez difficile, arriver à une homogénéité et une cohésion appréciables. Et de l'avis même des mélomanes jordanienues qui suivent leur orchestre, chaque concert est meilleur que le précédent.

Jean-Claude Elias

### Kermesse à l'Ecole française

L'Ecole française d'Amman organise une grande kermesse le vendredi 24 mai de 10h à 18h. Venez nombreux pour vous divertir, déguster des produits français et participer à une grande loterie comportant de nombreux lots (billets d'avion, antenne satellite, ...).

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### SELON

## NO

**Les sociétés** civiles du monde entier ont connu, et connaissent encore aujourd'hui, cette maladie qu'on appelle la bureaucratie. Ce fléau est vécu quotidiennement dans notre société. Beaucoup d'absences ou de pertes de temps dans les entreprises peuvent s'expliquer par des démarches administratives interminables nécessaires à l'obtention d'un passeport, d'une carte d'identité ou de tout autre document.

La lenteur de la bureaucratie trouve une des ses explications dans le «chômage masqué». En entrant dans certains bureaux, on peut se rendre compte que si certaines personnes travaillent beaucoup, d'autres ne sont payées que pour boire le thé, se ficher éperdument du public. Ce genre de spécimen n'est surtout pas prêt à lever le petit doigt pour vous aider, alors que c'est son devoir.

Le manque de formation peut lui aussi expliquer cette lenteur. Les gens appelés à accomplir ces travaux administratifs ne savent souvent pas quelle doit être l'efficacité de leur tâche.

On vient en général dans les bureaux de l'administration une première fois pour se renseigner sur les documents à fournir. Une deuxième visite s'impose ensuite pour déposer les documents demandés. Et c'est alors que bien souvent les mauvaises surprises commencent. Vous pouvez vous attendre à ce que l'on vous demande un nouveau document. Tout dépend de l'humeur de l'employé.

Malheureusement, la course infernale peut continuer encore longtemps. Il faut courir d'un bureau à l'autre en attendant des heures à chaque fois. Et puis au moment où vous pensez avoir terminé votre périple, vous devez aller chercher des timbres à la sortie des bureaux, alors qu'ils pourraient très bien être disponibles aux guichets pour éviter aux usagers un nouveau déplacement.

Cette situation est vraiment absurde car elle pourrait être facilement améliorée, avec un peu d'organisation et de bon sens. Le temps est aussi précieux pour l'employé que pour l'usager de l'administration. On pourrait afficher à l'entrée des bureaux une liste des pièces à fournir en fonction des documents demandés. Cela éviterait d'embourber inutilement les bâtiments de l'administration et ferait gagner à l'employé pas mal de temps. Surtout, cela l'aiderait à être plus disponible et plus souriant pour les autres.

De plus, on pourrait remédier à ce problème en mettant plus de personnel aux guichets. Pour éviter, par exemple, aux usagers de perdre des heures à attendre, on pourrait répartir les tâches administratives. Ils pourraient ainsi être plus efficaces dans leurs emplois, et l'Etat y gagnerait au bout du compte.

La bureaucratie est vraiment une plaie que l'on peut guérir avec des solutions simples qui permettraient à tous d'éviter des pertes de temps considérables.

Sotad Refiti Ennimer



## Activities

|                               |         |                     |        |
|-------------------------------|---------|---------------------|--------|
| Royal Cultural Centre         | 6610267 | Concord Cinema      | 677430 |
| American Centre Library       | 820101  | Plaza Cinema        | 699238 |
| British Council               | 6361478 | Philadelphia Cinema | 634144 |
| French Cultural Centre        | 637009  |                     |        |
| Goethe Institute              | 641993  |                     |        |
| Cervantes Institute (Spanish) | 610858  |                     |        |
| Turkish Cultural Centre       | 639777  |                     |        |
| Haya Arts Centre              | 665195  |                     |        |
| Y.W.C.A.                      | 641793  |                     |        |
| Y.W.M.A.                      | 664251  |                     |        |
| Darat al Funun                | 643252  |                     |        |
| Alia Art Gallery              | 639303  |                     |        |
| Baladna Art Gallery           | 657132  |                     |        |
| Nabil Al Mashini Theatre      | 675571  |                     |        |
| Nabil & Hisham's Theatre      | 625155  |                     |        |

## Sports Clubs

|                         |               |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| Al Hussein Sports City  | 6671815       |
| Orthodox Club           | 810491        |
| Royal Automobile Club   | 815410        |
| Royal Shooting Club     | 736572        |
| Royal Chess Club        | 672713        |
| Royal Racing Club       | 09-801233     |
| Jordan Bridge Club      | 676990        |
| Amman Mun. Library      | 636111        |
| Univ. of Jordan Library | 843555        |
| R.S.C.N.                | 837931/837937 |

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|------------------------------|--------|------------------------------|--------|
| The Prime Ministry           | 641211 | Labour                       | 698186 |
| Amman Greater Municipality   | 636111 | Municipalities & Environment | 641393 |
| Agriculture                  | 686151 | Parliamentary Affairs        | 641211 |
| Awqaf & Islamic Affairs      | 666141 | Planning                     | 644466 |
| Culture / Jabal Amman        | 636391 | Post & Communications        | 624301 |
| Education & Higher Education | 669181 | Public Health                | 665131 |
| Energy & Mineral Resources   | 815615 | Public Works & Housing       | 668481 |
| Finance                      | 636321 | Social Development           | 673191 |
| Foreign Affairs              | 644361 | Supplies                     | 602121 |
| Industry & Trade             | 663191 | Tourism & Antiquities        | 642311 |
| Information                  | 641467 | Transport                    | 641461 |
| Interior Ministry            | 663111 | Water & Irrigation           | 680100 |
| Justice                      | 663101 | Youth / University           | 604701 |

## Diplomatic Corps

|                        |                 |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Algerian               | 641271/2        |
| Australian             | 673246/7        |
| Austrian               | 644635          |
| Bahraini               | 664148/9        |
| Brazilian              | 642183          |
| Belgian                | 675683          |
| Bulgarian              | 818151          |
| Canadian               | 666124          |
| Chilean                | 823360          |
| Cyprus Honorary Cons   | 677559          |
| Czech                  | 671813/666135   |
| Danish Consulate Gen   | 603703          |
| Finnish Consulate      | 824654/824676   |
| French                 | 641273/4        |
| German                 | 689351          |
| Greek                  | 671331/2        |
| Hungarian              | 815614          |
| Icelandic Consulate    | 698851          |
| Indian                 | 637262          |
| Indonesian             | 828911          |
| Iraqi                  | 639331          |
| Italian                | 638185          |
| Japanese               | 672486/7        |
| Kuwaiti                | 675135/8        |
| Libyan                 | 693101/3        |
| Lebanese               | 641381          |
| Moroccan               | 641451          |
| Netherlands            | 619699 / 619693 |
| New Zealand Consulate  | 636720          |
| North Korean           | 666349          |
| Norwegian Embassy      | 644932/4        |
| Omani                  | 686155          |
| Pakistani              | 622787          |
| Palestine              | 677517          |
| People's Rep. of China | 666139          |
| Philippines            | 645161          |
| Pohish                 | 637153          |
| Qatar                  | 682666          |
| Romanian               | 667738          |
| Russian                | 641158          |
| Saudi Arabian          | 814546          |
| Slovenia Honorary Cons | 861542          |
| Sri Lanka, Consulate   | 645312          |
| South Korean           | 660745/6        |
| South Africa           | 811194          |
| Spanish                | 614166/9        |
| Sudanese               | 644251/2        |
| Swedish                | 669177/9        |
| Swiss                  | 686416/7        |
| Syrian                 | 641076          |
| Taiwan                 | 671530          |
| Tunisian               | 674307/8        |
| Turkish                | 641251          |
| U.A.E.                 | 643347/643341   |
| United Kingdom         | 823100          |
| United States          | 820101          |
| Yemen                  | 642381          |
| EEC Delegation         | 643191          |
| ESCWA                  | 69431/8         |
| ICRC                   | 688645          |
| UNDP/WFP               | 668171/7        |
| UNRWA                  | 607398          |
| UNICEF                 | 629571          |
| UNESCO                 | 606559          |

## Airlines

|                       |               |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| Adria Airways         | 667029        |
| Aeroflot              | 641510        |
| Aeromexico            | 694802        |
| Air Canada            | 630879        |
| Air France            | 666055/667824 |
| Air India             | 688301/2      |
| Air Lanka             | 682140        |
| Alitalia              | 625203        |
| Alyemda (Air yemen)   | 653691        |
| American Airlines     | 669068        |
| Arab Wings            | 894484        |
| Austrian Airlines     | 693845/694604 |
| Balkan Airlines       | 665909        |
| British Midland       | 694802        |
| British Airways       | 828801        |
| Cathay Pacific        | 628596        |
| China Airlines        | 636232        |
| Cyprus Airways        | 667028        |
| Delta Air Lines       | 643661        |
| Egypt Air             | 630011        |
| Emirates Airlines     | 643341        |
| Gulf Air              | 653613        |
| Hungarian Airlines    | 622275        |
| Iberia                | 637827/644036 |
| Iran Air              | 622826        |
| Japan Air Lines       | 630879        |
| KLM                   | 622175        |
| Korean Airlines       | 676624/662236 |
| Libyan Arab Airlines  | 643831/2      |
| Lufthansa             | 601744        |
| Malaysian Airline     | 639575/635446 |
| MEA                   | 636104        |
| Olympic               | 630125/638433 |
| Philippine Airlines   | 640200        |
| PIA                   | 625981        |
| Polish Airlines       | 862288        |
| Qantas                | 678321        |
| Royal Jordanian       | 639333        |
| Saudia                | 604499        |
| Scandinavian Airlines | 676177        |
| Singapore Airlines    | 694501        |
| Sudan Airlines        | 639791/641906 |
| Swiss Air (G.S.A.)    | 639791/641906 |
| Syrian Air            | 622147        |
| United Airlines       | 641959        |
| USAir                 | 694801/2      |
| TAROM - Romanian      | 637380        |
| Thai Airways          | 637195        |
| Trans World Airline   | 623430        |
| Turkish Airlines      | 659102        |
| Yemenia Airways       | 628175        |
| Queen Alia Airport    | (08) 53200    |
| RJ Flight Info        | (08) 53200    |

## Important Numbers

## Emergencies

|                    |               |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Police             | 192/621111    |
| Civil Defence H.Q. | 193/198/199   |
| Fire Brigade       | 622090/93     |
| Ambulance          | 199           |
| Blood Bank         | 775121        |
| Traffic Police     | 625943/639703 |
| Traffic Accidents  | 897467/8      |
| Highway Police     | 787111        |

## Hospitals

|                        |           |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Akleh Maternity        | 642441/2  |
| Al-Ahli, Abdali        | 664164/6  |
| Al-Bashir, Ashrafieh   | 775111/26 |
| Al-Muasher Hospital    | 667227/9  |
| Amal Hospital          | 674155    |
| Army, Marka            | 891611/15 |
| Hussein Medical Centre | 813813    |
| Italian-Al-Muhajreen   | 777101/3  |
| Jabal Amman Maternity  | 642362    |
| Khaled Maternity       | 641261/6  |
| Malhas, J. Amman       | 636141    |
| Palestine, Shmeisani   | 664171/4  |
| Queen Alia Hospital    | 602340/50 |
| Shmeisani Hospital     | 607431    |
| The Islamic, Abdali    | 666127/37 |
| University Hospital    | 845845    |

## General

|                        |            |
|------------------------|------------|
| Amman Municipality     | 843402     |
| Electricity Complaints | 121        |
| Prices complaints      | 666181     |
| Hotel complaints       | 08/53200   |
| Sewerage Complaints    | 896390     |
| Water Complaints       | 516390/1   |
| Jordan Television      | 773111/19  |
| Radio Jordan           | 774111/19  |
| Post Office Info.      | 750981/2/3 |
| Telephone Information  | 121        |

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